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EASTERN

F.O.
371

1948

PALESTINE

FILE No.8.....

pp. 1880 - 2759.....

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1948

PALESTINE

1880

10 FEB 1948

Registry
Number
FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E1880/8/31

UK Rel
New York.

52/11/48

5-8-48

10 -

Withdrawal Plans.
Transmit copies of correspondence between
League Agency, and Arab Higher Committee
with UK, and UN, re communication
to them of 11.11.48 withdrawal plans.

Last Paper.

1763

(Minutes.)

H13 127 2

References.

68615

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

L.P.H. 13/2

(Index)

H13 127 2

Next Paper.

1902

26513 F.O.P.

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EMPIRE STATE BLDG.
61ST FLOOR
NEW YORK 1. N. Y.

No. 52/111/48

5th February, 1948.

With the compliments of the

United Kingdom Delegation to the United Nations

Foreign Office
London, S.W.1.

10 FEB 1948

Copies sent to Washington and Jerusalem.

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NO 52/III/48

4th February, 1948.

Sir,

I am directed by Sir Alexander Cadogan to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 30th concerning the plan of the Mandatory Power for the evacuation of British troops from Palestine.

In reply, I am directed to inform you that this plan was communicated in confidence to the United Nations Palestine Commission and that there is no question at present of its being divulged to any other party.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(P.S. Falla)
First Secretary.

Mr. I. Nakhleh,
Delegation of the Arab Higher
Committee for Palestine
to the United Nations,
4512 Empire State Building,
New York.

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4A

4th February, 1948.

N° 52/110/48

Sir,

I am directed by Sir Alexander Cadogan to acknowledge receipt of your letter of January 30th in which you were good enough to forward a copy of correspondence between the United Nations Palestine Commission and the Jewish Agency concerning the plans of the Mandatory Power with regard to the evacuation of British Forces from Palestine.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

(P.S. Falla)
First Secretary.

Dr. Ralph J. Bunche,
United Nations,
Room Al-165,
Lake Success.

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C O P Y

Palestine Commission
United Nations
Lake Success, N.Y.

30th January 1948.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I have been directed by the United Nations Palestine Commission to transmit to you the enclosed copy of a letter from the Jewish Agency for Palestine to the Chairman of the Commission and the Commission's reply over my signature, both of which are self-explanatory.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant

Ralph J Bunche
Principal Secretary.

His Excellency
The Right Honourable Sir Alexander Cadogan, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.
United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations
New York, N.Y.

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COPY

Palestine Commission
United Nations
Lake Success, N.Y.

30th January 1948.

Sir,

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I have the honour to be,

Sir,

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Principal Secretary.

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The Right Honourable Sir Alexander Cadogan, G.C.M.G., K.C.B.
United Kingdom Representative to the United Nations
New York, N.Y.

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C O P Y

The Delegation of the
Arab Higher Committee for Palestine
4512 Empire State Building
New York 1, N.Y.

30th January 1948.

H.E. Sir Alexander Cadogan
Head of the Permanent Delegation of the United Kingdom
Empire State Building
New York, N.Y.

Sir

Reports have appeared in the press that the Palestine
Commission has called upon Your Excellency to divulge the
British plans for evacuating Palestine to the Jewish Agency.

As the said plans are of vital importance to the Arabs
and their security in Palestine the Arab Higher Committee
hopes that if Your Excellency intends to communicate these plans
to the Jewish Agency that they should be at the same time communi-
cated to the Arab Higher Committee either in Jerusalem or to its
Delegation here.

I beg to remain, Sir,

Yours sincerely,

Isa Nakhleh
Member, Delegation of the Arab
Higher Committee for Palestine
to the United Nations.

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C O P Y

8

29 January 1948.

Dear Mr. Eban

I am directed by the United Nations Palestine Commission to inform you that your communication of 23 January 1948, addressed to the Chairman, requesting that the plans of the Mandatory Power with regard to the evacuation of British forces from Palestine "be communicated under the conditions of secrecy and confidence to the representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine", was considered by the Commission at its twenty-third meeting on 28 January 1948.

With regard to your request the Commission directs your attention to the fact that until the Mandate is terminated the Mandatory Power alone is responsible for the maintenance of law and order in Palestine. Moreover, the information you request was given to the Commission by the representative of the Government of the United Kingdom on condition it would be kept in strictest confidence by the Commission. The Commission has given to the representative of the United Kingdom a formal pledge in this regard. The Commission, therefore, is in no position to comply with your request.

A copy of your communication and of this reply is being transmitted to the representative of the United Kingdom for his information and for such comment and action on the matter as he may deem appropriate.

Yours sincerely,

Ralph J. Bunche
Principal Secretary.

Mr. Aubrey S. Eban
Liaison Officer with the United Nations
Palestine Commission
The Jewish Agency for Palestine
16 East 66th Street
New York 21, N.Y.

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C O P Y

RESTRICTED

27th January 1948

UNITED NATIONS PALESTINE COMMISSION

Communication from the Representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine transmitting a request concerning plans for the evacuation of British Forces from Palestine.

The following communication has been addressed to the Chairman of the Commission by the representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine:-

January 23, 1948

The Chairman
United Nations Palestine Commission
Lake Success, New York.

Sir,

1. With reference to Mr. M. Shertok's address at the United Nations Palestine Commission on January 1, 1948, I am directed to request that the plans of the Mandatory Power with regard to the evacuation of British forces from Palestine be communicated under the conditions of secrecy and confidence to the representatives of the Jewish Agency for Palestine.
2. The evacuation of British forces from areas included in the territory of the Jewish State will leave such areas without organised means of defense unless these can be prepared beforehand. If there is no complete continuity in the measures necessary for defense, the Jewish population in certain areas will abruptly find itself undefended and exposed to easy aggression. The authorised Jewish bodies have the grave responsibility of ensuring that the lives of Jewish residents in those areas are not endangered by the absence of adequate defense at any time. They cannot discharge that responsibility without prior knowledge of the Evacuation Plan.
3. The fulfilment of the Jewish Agency's request to be granted this knowledge is therefore a measure essential for the protection of life and the maintenance of security.

I have the honour, Sir, to be

Yours faithfully,

Aubrey S. Eban
Liaison Officer with the
U.N. Palestine Commission.

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<p>1948</p> <p>36</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E1902/G</p> <p>10</p>
<p>E190218/31/6</p> <p>C.O. command</p> <p>Dated 4 Feb.</p>	<p>Protection of Naifa Oil</p> <p>Installations after withdrawal</p> <p>Tel to Palestine 36 Sav.</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E1925</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>JB Feb 24</p>	
<p>References</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25/2</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>W.H.</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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10 FEB 1948

E. 902

10 FEB 1948

SAVING.

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES.

TO THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT OF..... PALESTINE

DATE..... February, 1948.

NO..... 36..... SAVING. PRIORITY

TOP SECRET

Addressed High Commissioner, Palestine.
Repeated United Kingdom Delegation New York.

Haifa oil installations.

Protection of Haifa oil installations after
withdrawal.

Official Committee on Palestine have been asked to consider question of protection of Haifa oil installations after the general withdrawal of British forces on 1st August.

2. The Chiefs of Staff have already informed the Commanders-in-Chief that the protection of the oil pipeline, as distinct from the installations at Haifa, can cease progressively as our fighting troops withdraw. The protection of the installations at Haifa will not present the same military problems and as the Refineries contain a large quantity of very valuable plant which could not be replaced without considerable delay, and in addition have a function independent of the pipeline, their protection is of great importance.

3. We understand that oil companies are making arrangements to strengthen the local guards and that by the 1st August these will be sufficient to ensure the protection of the Refinery against the action of individual hooligans. While it may be that responsible Jews and Arabs will recognise that the continuing functioning of the Refineries is in the best interests of both sides, the possibility cannot be excluded of an attack by either the Hagana or, more probably, the Arab para-military forces. In this connection attention is drawn to paragraph 7 below. A small military force would be required for protection against a threat by such organisations. The War Office are inviting the Commander-in-Chief Middle East Land Forces to report on the feasibility of defending the oil installations after our withdrawal and the forces that would be required.

4. It would clearly be difficult for His Majesty's Government to modify their declaration that British forces will be completely withdrawn by the 1st August, unless some clear justification for this presented itself, such as a complete breakdown in the arrangements to be made by the United Nations for the future of the territory, or the existence of such a state of disorder as to warrant the retention of troops for

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the protection of British lives and property. Failing any such justification the only legal basis on which troops might be retained at Haifa would be at the request or with the permission of the United Nations Commission, or of the local State if one had by then been set up.

5. The time is not yet appropriate for an approach to the United Nations Commission and at the moment no action is being taken beyond the formulation of plans. I should, however, be grateful for any observations you may wish to make at this stage. In particular, you may wish to say whether you consider that the protection of the installations by British troops will in itself be sufficient to ensure the continued operation of the Refineries.

Maintenance of output of the Refineries up to 1st August.

6. I am glad to note from your telegram No. 223 that limited operation of the Refineries commenced on the 22nd January and that it is hoped, provided nothing unforeseen occurs, to resume full working in about three weeks' time. Concern has been expressed here about the effect of any further interruption of work not only on the economy of Palestine, but on supplies of oil for the sterling area and other markets normally supplied through the Haifa Refineries. Although I realise that it is not possible to eliminate the possibility of further trouble among the mixed labour at Haifa, I should be grateful to know whether it has been possible to take any steps, in conjunction with the oil companies, to minimise the effect of further incidents and to ensure the maintenance of output for as long as we remain in control. It would be helpful if your reply could be agreed by General Officer Commanding as regards recommendations for the period of military control.

The attitude of the Arab States.

7. The Iraqi Delegation which has been negotiating the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty in London represented to the Foreign Secretary and myself that it was intolerable from the point of view of Iraqi public opinion that Iraqi oil should be used to enable Jews to kill Arabs in Palestine: they ask that careful consideration should be given to the possibility of cutting off supplies of oil from the Haifa Refinery to the Jewish forces in Palestine. They recognise that it might be impossible to do this without also cutting off supplies to the population generally, Arab as well as Jewish, and they were prepared to accept these consequences. There can clearly be no question, while British Administration of Palestine continues, of agreeing, in the face of such an implied threat, to take action which would unduly penalise either one or both sections of the population. I imagine too that there would be insuperable difficulties in the way of preventing the misuse of oil products by either community. I should, however, be grateful for any observations you may have on this Iraqi approach, and in particular to be advised in general terms of the effect which a cessation of oil supplies from Iraq would have both on the Jewish and Arab communities.

SEGER.

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<p>18:3</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E1917 /G</p> <p>12</p>
<p>38</p> <p>E 1917/8/31/6</p> <p>F.O. Minute</p> <p>Mr Bealey</p> <p>Dated 12 Jan.</p>	<p>Date of termination of mandate over Palestine</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E1902</p> <p>References</p> <p>E941/8/6</p> <p>E538/8/6</p> <p>E402/8/6</p> <p>E1100/8/6</p> <p>E349/8/6</p> <p>(Print)</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>See minutes within.</p> <p>R.B. 12/12</p>	
<p>(How disposed of)</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25/12</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>47</p>	
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PALESTINE.

When the Secretary of State was asked to approve an attempt to advance the date for the termination of the mandate over Palestine, he said that he wished first to know what the cost of such a change of policy would be, particularly in terms of military stores which might have to be abandoned.

At the subsequent meeting of the official committee on Palestine, on the 7th January, the Colonial Office and Foreign Office representatives pressed for an enquiry into the consequences of advancing the date from the 15th May to the 1st April. The War Office representative did not favour any tampering with the plan to which the military were already working, but it was eventually agreed that the Chiefs of Staff should be asked for an estimate of the financial loss which might be incurred by advancing the date to the 1st April.

The meeting had before it the High Commissioner's opinion that the proposed change of date was desirable from the point of view of the civil administration. The Ministry of Defence have since received a telegram (copy attached) from the Commanders-in-Chief, M. E. L. F., stating that the military plan of withdrawal could be modified to conform with a decision to terminate the mandate at the end of March. They also imply (paragraph 5 (a) and (b)) that the movement of stores would not be interfered with by the proposed change of date for ending the mandate. This is confirmed by a telegram which the Colonial Office have received from the High Commissioner, stating that the stores can be moved into the Haifa zone or to Rafah by the end of February.

It thus appears likely that the Chiefs of Staff will give a favourable reply to the question raised by the Secretary of State, and that no serious financial disadvantage will result from ending the mandate six weeks earlier than was originally decided.

The official committee on Palestine will meet again in the near future to consider the telegrams mentioned above and the reply of the Chiefs of Staff. It is suggested that the facts contained in this minute should be brought to the attention of the Secretary of State on Thursday, and that his authority should be sought for support to be given in the Committee by the Foreign Office representative for a recommendation to Ministers in favour of terminating the mandate on the 1st April.

Meanwhile, Sir A. Cadogan may be entering into discussions with the United Nations Commission on the date of their arrival in Palestine. It is also suggested, therefore, that he should at once be warned that a change of date is contemplated here, in order that he shall not commit himself too firmly to resist the Commission's arrival in Palestine before the 1st May.

A draft telegram is attached.

H. B. B. B.

12th January, 1948.

J. B. B. B.

The Colonial Office, the High Commissioner /at

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at Jerusalem, and Foreign Office advises
all recommend advancing the date for
termination of the Mandate from May 15th
to April 1st. The C. in C. M.E.L.F. say
that the military plan could be modified
to conform and imply that movement of stores
would not be interfered with.

I strongly recommend that F.O. should
support the proposal before the Palestine Committee.
If endorsed it would materially ease our
difficult position towards the Middle East states

perchance

13.1

I agree

B.G. Saraghy Jan 14

Saraghy

But please see the
M.E.L.F. Defence to the British, showing
that the C. in C. M.E.L.F. are highly
opposed to the defence of the Mandate
I suggest a meeting between
the C. in C. M.E.L.F. and the British
to discuss the following

1. This is a very important matter for
the Mandate. The C. in C. M.E.L.F.
have the power to lift.

P.L.C. to M.E.L.F.

19.1

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F. O.,

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Despatched

M.

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Telegram. New York

No.

(Date) 12 Jan. 1948

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Addressed to New York, Telegram no

My telegram No. 4203
Foll. from Sargent

In accordance with the plan of withdrawal from Palestine approved by the Defence Committee last November, it has hitherto been assumed that we must attempt to prevent the United Nations Commission from arriving in Palestine earlier than the 1st May.

2. This is, in fact, still the position. You should, however, know for your own information that we are actively examining the possibility of advancing the date for terminating the mandate from the 15th May to the 1st April. This ^{would} make it possible for us to agree to the arrival of the United Nations Commission on or about the 15th March.

3. ~~The principal factors which are being~~ taken into account in deciding whether this change can be made arise from the general policy of His Majesty's Government in the Middle East, and from the administrative and military situation in Palestine. We should naturally wish, however, to take account of the wishes of the United Nations Commission before a final decision is reached. It would ~~therefore be useful if we could have before us~~

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ast/-
3. You

~~as soon as possible any estimate you are~~
able to make of the Commission's attitude
on this question. Would they be likely/
~~in any event~~ to resist an attempt to hold
them at bay until the 1st May? Or might
they, on the contrary, regard the
15th March as unpleasantly near?

4. We are informing you at this stage
in order that you may avoid committing us
too definitely to the dates already

~~announced~~. You will appreciate, ~~however~~
that we do not wish any hint to be given
yet that we are contemplating a revision
of our plans.

You will no doubt send us
12th January, 1948.
with suitable information
to the Commission's interest

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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<p>39 1948</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E1991 /G 11 FEB 1948 15</p>
<p>E1991 18/3/48 F.O. Minute Mr Keeley dated 24 Jan</p>	<p>Palestine: Dates for withdrawal Minute by Minister of Defence - 23 Jan 200/EC</p>	
<p>Last Paper E1984</p>	<p>(Minutes) See within, minute from 27/3</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>Ref. 14 1/2</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of) Sgt) Minister of Defence from S of S ✓ 12 Feb. copy Parliamentary under S of S for Colonies ✓ 12 Feb.</p>		
<p>(Action completed) ✓ 10/12</p>	<p>(Index) ✓</p>	
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TOP SECRET.

Minutes.

16

Eastern Dept.

The Minister of Defence has asked that a reply in writing may be sent by the Foreign Secretary to his attached minute of January 23rd about the withdrawal dates for the termination of the Mandate.

As you know, the Secretary of State agreed this morning with the Minister of Defence and the Colonial Secretary that we should adhere to the present dates.

W.K.D.

24th January, 1948.

I regret that this paper has been mislaid. I now attach a draft minute.

H. Bealey 87/2

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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11 FEB 1948

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17

E.99.

PALESTINE

DATES FOR WITHDRAWAL.

Two dates are in question - 15th May for the termination of the Mandate, and 1st August for the completion of the military withdrawal. To advance the later date would probably involve advancing the earlier also. But it might be possible to advance the earlier without moving the later.

So far as the minute by the Minister of Defence deals with the date of the 1st August, the Department have no comment to make.

With regard to the termination of the Mandate, the Minister of Defence says (para. 6) that the Commanders in Chief, Middle East, have stated that there is no military reason for advancing the date to the 1st April; but they also say in the same telegram that if there are political reasons for so doing the military plan can be made to conform to the change. The Minister of Defence also points out that the Commanders in Chief say they can move the stores in the Haifa zone by the end of April, i.e. only a fortnight before the present date for ending the Mandate; but in offering this date the Commanders in Chief do so explicitly on the assumption that the Mandate would end on the 31st March. In other words they appear to consider that the termination of the Mandate on that date would not interfere with the closing stages of the movement of stores to Haifa.

H.B. Kelly

24th January, 1948.

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TOP SECRET

MINISTRY OF DEFENCE.

FOREIGN SECRETARY

Following our talk yesterday about the possibility of advancing the date of the termination of the Mandate in Palestine, I have been into the matter again in great detail. I am convinced that, for the reasons set out in detail below, it would be most inadvisable to contemplate any earlier termination than the agreed date of May 15th. Perhaps when you and the Secretary of State for the Colonies (to whom I am sending a copy of this minute) have considered the matter we might have a further discussion.

2. The present date for termination of the Mandate, i.e. 15th May, was decided upon by the Defence Committee at their 25th Meeting on 27th November last after full discussion. The decision was taken in the light of -

(i) The damage to the prestige of His Majesty's Government, the loss of military stores, and the major disruption of the shipping programme that would result from an early termination (i.e. Plan B);

(ii) The possibility of trouble with the Jews resulting from either hanging on too long or running out too early.

3. In the discussions between Departments leading up to this decision, all the present troubles were foreseen - and indeed it was because of prospective deterioration of relations between Jews and Arabs that the Service Departments were so insistent upon civil administration remaining in being until the military stores were concentrated.

4. One of the main arguments of those who now wish to advance the date of the termination of the Mandate is that the decision to retain the Mandate until 15th May was also based on the High Commissioner's advice that the Arabs would not make trouble for us while we were still in charge, and that the Arabs have failed to keep this undertaking. The Defence Committee adopted the present plan of withdrawal on 27th November and the first hint of an undertaking by the Arabs was apparently not received by us until 4th December.

5. The initiative in the present proposals to advance the date did not come from Palestine, but derived from

Will deal with this in the morning as it is a meeting 2/12

18

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Colonial Office telegram No. 44 dated 5th January (attached).

6. The Commanders-in-Chief say categorically in their telegram 200/CCL of 10th January (attached) that there is no military reason for giving up the Mandate earlier. The Chiefs of Staff support them emphatically.

7. It is true that they now say they could concentrate the stores within the Haifa and Rafa enclaves somewhat earlier than in their original estimate, but they still cannot do so before 1st May. To terminate the Mandate before these stores are into the enclaves will certainly lead to severe losses because of the conditions mentioned below.

8. As soon as the Mandate is relinquished it is quite certain that the public services, e.g. railways, etc. in which the operatives are mixed Jews and Arabs will come to a full stop.

9. The military cannot take over these services except in limited areas, so, if the Mandate is given up as proposed on 1st April, the railways will not work and we could not possibly "fight" stores into the enclaves that would have taken a month to get in when the railways were operating.

10. The reason why stores cannot be evacuated from Haifa more quickly is the purely physical limitation of the railways and ports etc. Only if the requirements of the general commercial traffic of Palestine were disregarded altogether could the process of moving the stores be speeded up appreciably. Food must continue to be brought in and the other economic necessities of Palestine including the citrus traffic provided for. Haifa is the only deep water port at which the necessary ships can be berthed and, when reasonable allowance has been made for the minimum trade requirements of the country, the margin of handling capacity and berthage space is 5,000 tons a week. This will be used to capacity and every other practicable step is being, and will be, taken to speed up the evacuation of stores but the total which must be passed through Haifa will amount to 200,000 tons. The Marine Commando left Malta for Haifa some days ago. General Hewer, who has been charged by me with the special mission of advising and assisting with the implementation of the stores evacuation plans, is already on the spot and his efforts will, I have no doubt, ensure that no useful expedient is overlooked which could lead to an improvement in the rate of evacuation, but it would be idle to expect spectacular results from his activities.

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11. There cannot be any question of forfeiting or losing these stores by leaving them behind. There has been mentioned that the date for final evacuation from Palestine, i.e. 1st August, could be advanced if the urge of necessity similar to a war operation was applied. In a wartime evacuation, the first priority was always to get the troops away. Any stores lost were then replaced in a matter of weeks from production. Nowadays there is no new production of equipment or warlike stores nor any reserves from which to make good the deficiency. The stores to be evacuated from Haifa are essentially required for further use elsewhere in the Middle East, and their loss, even though the financial loss could be accepted, would directly affect the mobility and efficiency of the Army and Royal Air Force Units.

12. From the point of view of the Services, earlier termination of the Mandate would be even more serious now than when the present date was decided upon, for it is now quite clear that the ending of the Mandate will be the signal for really serious trouble. It is apparently only the presence of British troops which is preventing a "blood-bath" in Palestine.

13. There are many things to be settled which are vital to the military plan, e.g., continued service of some of the police and the running of public services in such limited areas as possible. The Staffs are working on plans for these now, but even by 15th May we may not be ready. To drop everything on 1st April would leave the army in a very awkward position.

14. What is wanted is firm support for the present administration from London in the present admittedly difficult conditions. We ought not to allow it to be said of us that we were driven to a helter-skelter departure from Palestine by Jews or Arabs.

15. I therefore recommend that there should be no departure from the present plan, from the date for the termination of the Mandate, nor from the date of 1st August for final evacuation.

A. H.

23rd January, 1948

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COPY

TO PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES

Sent 5th January, 1948. 21.30 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 44 Top Secret and Personal.

I have now had an opportunity of seeing Fletcher Cooke and hearing from him the line you would be likely to take if asked to give your reaction to a proposal to withdraw the Civil Administration and terminate the Mandate at an earlier date than 15th May. In view of the recent developments, Ministers here have been feeling increasingly that it would be difficult for effective administration to be maintained for so long a period in the worsening security situation. As judged from here the Government are becoming increasingly unable to discharge their responsibilities for law and order throughout the country.

My understanding has been that your advocacy of continued Civil Administration for the full period up to 15th May derived largely from the desirability of which we have all been aware for the maximum possible assistance to be given by the Civil Administration to the Military in their evacuation of Personnel and stores, and also to provide a reasonable period of time during which the United Nations Commission might make its arrangements for an orderly assumption of authority after due preparation.

It is now becoming clear that circumstances are unlikely to permit the implementation of this programme, based as it was on the assumption that the Arabs would produce no strong reaction until the United Nations Commission had arrived, and that the security situation would thus be manageable until then. However long the United Nations Commission have to prepare there can now be very little prospect of an orderly hand-over of the administrative machine to them, and therefore the argument on that ground for maintaining the Mandatory Administration as long as possible now ceases to be valid. As regards the argument that continuation of Civil Administration until 15th May is essential to the Military programme, I should be glad to know whether in view of the changed security situation opinion in Palestine has in any way shifted on this issue.

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A meeting of the Official Committee on Palestine on Wednesday afternoon is likely to consider whether H.M.G. should not now revise its policy with a view to withdrawal of the Civil Government and termination of the Mandate on 1st April, notwithstanding the very serious difficulties such a decision would cause to the Service Departments and Ministry of Transport, especially from the point of view of re-deployment and shipping. For the purposes of this meeting, I should be most grateful if you could let me have an appreciation of the present position with above factors in mind in consultation with the Military as far as possible.

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IZ 85
TOO 101915B
(101715Z)
TOR 112015Z

IMMEDIATE

From: G.H.Q., M.E.L.F.
To: Ministry of Defence, London.
Info: C-in-C Mediteranean.

200/CCL

10th January, 1948.

From Commanders-in-Chief for Chiefs of Staff.
Withdrawal from Palestine.

1. Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F. and Air Commander-in-Chief have discussed Palestine withdrawal plan with High Commissioner in light of Colonial Office telegram relayed to M.E.L.F. in War Office telegram 04590(MO4) dated 6th January, 1948.

2. High Commissioner stated that he had made no firm recommendation to Colonial Office regarding earlier termination of Mandate, he had however recommended that nothing should be done to resist arrival of UNO Commission by earliest 14th March which would mean termination of Mandate 31st March.

3. Commander-in-Chief M.E.L.F. stated there was no development in situation in Palestine so far from military point of view which called for change of plan. If however HMG decided for political reasons to terminate Mandate on 1st March as suggested in above quoted Colonial Office telegram it would be possible and indeed necessary to modify military plan to conform.

4. Present plan is:-

Phase 1. Withdrawal from Gaza area by 29th February.

Phase 2. Withdrawal from Jerusalem and parts of Samaria and Lydda by ~~(cipher note: date omitted by originator. Check requested).~~ 31st May

Phase 3. Withdrawal from remainder Samaria and Lydda and Galilee by 30th June.

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Phase 4. Final withdrawal from Haifa enclave by 1st August.

5. On assumption Mandate is terminated 31st March military plan would be modified as follows:-

(a) Phase 1. As planned. Essential to keep open road and rail communications to South until 29th February to complete plan for movement of stores by land routes to Tafah (?Rafah) and Egypt. Thus change in phase 1 can be accepted.

(b) Phase 2. It is possible to move remaining stores which are to be shipped ex-Haifa into Haifa enclave by end of April. Phase 2 of withdrawal could thus be completed by 30th April.

(c) Phase 3. Could probably be carried out simultaneously with phase 2 but might be extended into first half of May timing can be decided according to situation at that time. Should this phase extend to mid-May there will be a hiatus of six weeks during which military will have certain responsibilities in regard to civil administration outside the Haifa enclave. This period is considered maximum acceptable in the very disturbed conditions anticipated after termination of mandate.

(d) Phase 4. Owing to limitations of shipping port facilities etc. no change from 1st August as date for final evacuation is acceptable without serious sacrifice of essential stores. Final withdrawal will therefore be completed by 1st August as before. Consider no difficulty in military remaining in Haifa enclave for three months. Firm measures would have to be taken to maintain law and order. This would be done

(e) Some stepping up of personnel shipping programme would be necessary particularly to clear troops from Haifa area to make room for H.Q. Palestine and also in order to prevent too large a build up of troops in Egypt. Even so some increase in numbers staging in Egypt would have to be accepted to give time for provision of accommodation elsewhere.

6. Royal Navy and Royal Air Force would conform to modified plan.

7. We must point out that should the Mandate be terminated by 31st March the question of transferring illegal immigrants held in Cyprus becomes one for yet more urgent decision.

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25

- 3 -

8. Request early decision if Mandate is to be terminated earlier date so that proposed modifications to military withdrawal can be firmly planned.

CIRCULATION.

T00 101915B

D.C.O.R.
Foreign Office.
First Sea Lord.
Message Control, War Office.
A.M.C.S.
Chief of Combined Operations Staff.
Secretary of State for Colonies.
Minister of Transport.

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(2/47) (14728) Wt. 11489-144 250m 5/47 G.S.S.

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

Registry
No. E09918/C

Top Secret.
~~Secret.~~
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open.

Draft. Minute
to Minister of
Defence
(from S/S)

Private Secretary

H.B. 8/12

Copy to
~~Parliamentary~~
Under S. & S.
for the Colonies

119
February 12th 26
+ 1 cpl

Top Secret

Minister of Defence

Your minute of the 23rd
January on the proposal that we
should advance the date for terminating
the mandate over Palestine.

^{This is to}
I confirm the agreement which
we reached, together with the Colonial
Secretary, at a meeting held in this
Office on the 24th January, to maintain
the present plans under which the
mandate will be terminated on the 15th
May and the withdrawal of British
troops completed on the 1st August.

I am sending a copy of this
minute to the ~~Minister~~ ^{Parliamentary Under-Secretary} of State for
the Colonies.

7/12
9/2

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F.S/48/2.

(B 1991/8/G)
TOP SECRET

27

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

Your minute of the 23rd January on the proposal that we should advance the date for terminating the mandate over Palestine.

2. This is to confirm the agreement which we reached, together with the Colonial Secretary, at a meeting held in this Office on the 24th January, to maintain the present plans under which the mandate will be terminated on the 15th May and the withdrawal of British troops completed on the 1st August.
3. I am sending a copy of this minute to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies.

(Sd.) *W. A. R. W. A. R.*

12th February, 1948.

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73

NEXT
75

E

E 2125

FEB 1948

PALESTINE

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E2125/8/31

70 Minute

14 Reel

11 Feb

14 ~

Status of Palestinians after May 15
 As Hugh Drew, former Political Representative ~
 representation called and discussed the status
 of Palestinians after May 15, i.e. will they
 continue to be British protected subjects or
 will they become stateless persons.

Last Paper.

2093

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

L.A.M. 14/2

(Index.)

14/2

Next Paper.

2126

(Minutes.)

2123.14/2

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Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

Minutes.

29 *Ends*

Mr. Evans

E 2125

Sir Hugh Dow, who will be our Political Representative in Jerusalem after the termination of the Mandate, ~~called on me yesterday~~. When we were discussing his obligations with regard to the protection of British subjects, questions arose as to the status of Palestinians after 15th May. Will they on that date become stateless persons? Or will they in any sense continue to be British protected persons until such time as new states are established in Palestine? Will their present passports continue to be valid during this interval? These questions will probably be of more importance in the Arab parts of the country than in the Jewish area, where some kind of Jewish Government will probably be established without great delay.

I should be grateful for any guidance you can give me. Sir Hugh Dow is calling again on Thursday or Friday.

H. Beeley

H. Beeley
11th February, 1948.

*After 15th May Palestinians
will cease to be B p persons.
They will be Palestinian
citizens and stateless
but nationals of one of two
potential states for whose
protection in the interval
I imagine the U.N. will be
responsible.*

W. R. Beeley 11/2

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75 LAST 73

E

E 2:20 30

14 FEB 1943

1948

PALESTINE

Registry Number
FROM

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

E 2126/8/31

M/Defence

600000

14 Feb

Disposal of Army Stores in Palestine
HQ British Troops Palestine till ADM/1012
of Feb 10 Refer M/Defence till DEF 719
Jan 20/E 1415/648/31. It is suggested that
Jews and Arabs should be offered equal shares
of 1222 tons for disposal. Also whether
there should be loss of articles whose number
should be sold to highest bidder.

Last Paper.

2/25

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

This has been answered by M/Defence

H.B. 19/2

In P.P. HQ Troops Palestine till M/Defence ADM 1014 13/2
- M/Defence till DEF 747 & HQ Troops Palestine 17/2
- Palestine till 384 16/2

H.B. 20/2

In P.P. Palestine till 404 18/2

H.B. 20/2

In P.P. M/Defence Minute, R. Howard 16/2

JB Feb 24

See within copy of the C. of the
57906 5218 L. 1

JB Apr. 29

(Action completed.)
f. 18/2

(Index)
f. 18/2

Next Paper.

68

26513 F.O.P.

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IMMEDIATE

IZ 423
TOC 101745
TOR 1114252

E 2120

From : H.Q. BRITISH TROOPS, PALESTINE

To : MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, LONDON

14 FEB 1948

ADM/1012

10th February, 1948

From Hower.

1 415 / 443 / 31

Your DEF 719 30 January.

1. There are approximately 6000 vehicles including 1722 or 1222+ jeeps for disposal in Palestine. All are located in the Jewish areas, Jews and Arabs have always been treated equally when vehicles have been on offer.

2. Load carrying vehicles are not considered a doubtful case and are being sold to highest bidder.

3. Jeeps are considered a doubtful case and Palestine Government recommend that half of these should be offered to each side and that if the Arabs refuse to buy their share they should be retained by the Army and decision made later as to their disposal.

4. The Jews would probably buy all jeeps at fifty pounds each. It is doubtful if the Arabs will buy any.

5. It would of course be more advantageous both financially and administratively to sell all jeeps to one buyer. Should be grateful for your decision earliest as to whether jeeps should be sold to highest bidder or dealt with as recommended by Palestine Government as pilfering reaching alarming proportions and marked falling.

CIRCULATION

D.C.C.R.

Foreign Office

First Sea Lord

Message Control, War Office

Telegrams Registry, Air Ministry

Chief of Combined Operations Staff

Chancellor of the Exchequer

Secretary of State for Colonies

Minister of Supply

TOC 101745

+ Check and Repeat
of number requested

= Originator asked
whether message
complete

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Encls 32
+ 1

UNCLASSIFIED PLAIN LANGUAGE TELEGRAM.

IZ 446
TCO 121930
TCR 122109Z

IMMEDIATE.

From: H.Q. British Troops, Palestine.
To: Ministry of Defence, London.

ADM/1013

12th February 1948.

Your GS 3604 of 11th January.

From Hewer.

+1222 repeat one thousand two hundred and twenty
two message complete.

CIRCULATION.

TCO 121930

+ ADM/1012
(IZ 423) refers

D.C.O.R.
Foreign Office
First Sea Lord
Message Control W/O
Registry Telegrams, Air Ministry
Chief of Combined Operations Staff
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Colonies
Minister of Supply

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

226 8 31

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 16th February, 1948.
R. 16th " 14.50 hrs.

No. 384

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to B.M.E.O., No. 26.

My telegram No. 190.

War Department Stores.

General Hewer of Ministry of Defence reports that War Office have ordered cessation of all sales of defence stores. Understood that this term includes barbed wire, sandbags, picks, shovels and the like. I have no particular objection to continued sale of such stores which may be considered as of non-aggressive character.

2. Sale of any military vehicles in large numbers, either solely to Arabs or solely to Jews, is open to objection on grounds that it is tantamount to equipping one side with military transport at the expense of the other. In view of strong representations by Hewer, however, I have agreed that a Jewish offer for 4,800 unserviceable load-carrying vehicles might be accepted, provided that Arab Higher Committee were told of it and given three days to make an offer themselves. They have been so informed.

3. The 1,222 jeeps are in rather a different category. These are serviceable vehicles and were they all (repeat all) sold to the Jews the resultant Arab agitation might dwarf that aroused by sale of Auster aircraft, and we might lose much Arab goodwill.

4. G.O.C.-in-C. Palestine's signal (9101745) to the War Office refers.

± Corrupt group - alternative 101345.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office

Ministry of Supply

Foreign Office

Min. of Civil Aviation

"

- Mr. H. Beeley
- Mr. E. Haynes
- Mr. W.J. Orr
- Mr. Edien
- Mr. L.J. Dunnett
- Registry Tels.

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OZ 453
TOO 171655Z
TOD 171800Z

IMMEDIATE

From : Ministry of Defence, London
To : H.Q. British Troops, Palestine

2/26 8 21

DEF 747

17th February, 1948.

For Hewer.

Your ADM/1012 February 10th.

We agree jeeps are doubtful case but we do not like compromise suggested in your paragraph 3 which amounts to treating jeeps as material of military value but giving both sides an equal opportunity to acquire them.

We prefer that question of disposal of jeeps should be decided according to whether or not they are military material to which ban on disposal applies.

Ministers have been consulted and agree that ban on disposal does not apply to jeeps. They should therefore be dealt with on same basis as ordinary load carrying vehicles and sold to highest bidder, both sides being given equal opportunity to tender. Ministers stipulate, however, that disposal of these jeeps must not be effected all in one place.

CIRCULATION

TOO 171655Z

D.C.O.R.
Foreign Office
First Sea Lord
Message Control W/O
Telegrams Registry, Air Ministry
Chief of Combined Operations Staff
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Colonies
Minister of Supply

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2126 8 71

1 FEB 1948

IZ 459
TOO 131900B
(131700Z)
TOR 140130Z

MOST IMMEDIATE

FROM : H.Q. BRITISH TROOPS, PALESTINE.
TO : MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, LONDON.

ADM/1014

13th February, 1948.

From Hower.

1. Your CYP 272 of 13th February. Last four words of paragraph five ADM/1012⁰ of 10th February "proportion and market falling".
2. As the market in Middle East is being flooded with second hand vehicles the price of these vehicles is falling. Pilferage is also reducing sale value.
3. CS 3604 of 11th February from Troopers quoted word market query was not therefore understood.

CIRCULATION

TOO 131900B

D.C.O.R.
Foreign Office. ØIZ 423
First Sea Lord.
Message Control, War Office.
Telegrams Registry, Air Ministry.
Chief of Combined Operations Staff.
Chancellor of the Exchequer.
Secretary of State for Colonies.
Ministry of Supply.

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INWARD TELEGRAM

TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES

Cypher (O.T.P.)

2126 8 21

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

D. 18th February, 1948.

R. 18th " " 16.00 hrs.

IMMEDIATE

INDEXED

No. 404 Secret

Addressed to S. of S.
Repeated to B.M.E.C., No. 27.

My telegram No. 384 repeated to B.M.E.C., No. 26.
War Department Stores.

As embargo has now been lifted, question of
defence stores does not now arise.

2. Sale has now been effected to Jews. You will
note that this was not (repeat not) a doubtful case.

3. I now learn that jeeps are not (repeat not)
serviceable. However, I am informed that out of 1,222 300
serviceable vehicles could be assembled by Jews in two
months or by Arabs in a rather longer time. I still think
that sale of certain consignments of jeeps to one party
might provoke Agency criticism.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office	-	Mr. H. Beeley
Ministry of Supply	-	Mr. A. Haynes
" " "	-	Mr. W. J. Orr
Foreign Office	-	Mr. Edden
Min. of Civil Aviation	-	Mr. L. J. Dunnatt
" " "	-	Registry Tel.

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TOP SECRET CYPHER TELEGRAM

WARNING The text of this message must be thoroughly paraphrased if it is to be published or otherwise communicated to persons outside the British or U.S. Government Service. If re-transmitted unparaphrased, the originator must mark it to be sent in "O.T.P." (One-Time Pad).

IMMEDIATE

From : H.Q. British Troops, Palestine
To : Ministry of Defence, London

ADM/1015

21st February, 1948.

Your DEF 747 17th February.

From Hower.

For Sir Harold Parker.

1. Must point out difficulties in carrying out your instructions. Jeeps have been for many months in one park. They are all unserviceable and very few are even tow-able. To move say half of them would use up considerable effort which should be maintained as at present on evacuation work. To use transporters for this purpose would be highly uneconomic.

2. Haifa area where Jeeps are located is the the only locality where Jews and Arabs work together and Arabs are as likely to buy them there as anywhere else. Am however sure that they will not buy them anywhere.

3. In view of your decision that no ban is placed on sale of Jeeps Palestine Government do not object to sale in(at?) one place.

4. Suggest that in view of position as explained above Arab Higher Committee are given seven days to make offer and if no offer submitted should be sold to highest bidder on present site.

5. Palestine Government have agreed this signal.

CIRCULATION

D.C.O.R. Chief of Combined Operations Staff
Foreign Office Chancellor of the Exchequer
First Sea Lord Secretary of State for Colonies
Message Control W.O. Minister of Supply
Registry Telegrams A.M.

TOO 211315B

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TOP SECRET

19 FEB 1948

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NOTE FOR RECORD

2/26

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38

Let Green
The Minister had a discussion with the Foreign Secretary this afternoon at which a number of current matters were discussed. A record of one of the items dealt with is below.

On the question of General Hewer's telegram about the disposal of jeeps in Palestine, the Foreign Secretary agreed, after some discussion, with the Minister's suggestion that they should be sold to the highest bidder, and that they should not be regarded as material of military value, Mr. Bevin however, made two conditions: the jeeps should be freely offered to both sides, and disposal of them should not be effected all in one place.

R. ARD E WOOD

Easton Dft

16th February, 1948.

*This was a subject
discussed yesterday on
which the Sops agreed
to give me a note*

*7/2
17/2*

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Recd 21 Feb 48

D.T.O. 202000 B Feb

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10-10-68

SECRET 57906 SD 1B

One. You will have seen Jerusalem telegram No. 384 of 16 Feb to Colonial Office.

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Four. For Milpal. Request result your deliberations with Hewer regarding Disposal Dannert wire. Our 53737 SD4B of 6 Feb refers Message Control.

4 adv enlists GS(W)1 at 0600 hrs 21 Feb 49.
1 adv to be rtd to Message Control rm C18 with listn.

Re Distribution by G.S. (W)1 To:- G.S. (W)1 for action

Copies to :-

S. OF S.	LWD
NS	Chl.GS(W)1
DME(A)	GS(W)1
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CIGS	DSD(A)
VOIGS	SD 2,5(Lt. Chl. Lowe)
EOG	IRAO
LDNO(A) (B)	EDAO
	DRA
D. Plans	DRA
MO1,4(B)	E-in-C MOE
DMI	E/E-in-C
EDMI(I)	D Sign(COOL)
MI 1,3,3(a)	D Inf
DST	MDInf
DCIGS	LL/AV
	LL/MI

AG
Brig AG Os-ent
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DLP
QAG
VAG
Q(AE)2,5
D f A
D f A
Q(AE)4,5
D f A

DD Mov	DDOS(Adm)
Cal Mov (F)	DDOS(G)
Cal Mov (F)	Ord1,7(2)
Q(I):1	D&E
DDMG	D&E(Cus)
DER	D Lab
D Tr	D&S
D Tr(O)	DUS(A)(B)
DQ	DF(a)(c)
DDQ(B)	F 1
DST	DER
DDST	DER
DDST(POL)	IR C - rd
DDST(S)	KCCF
DDST(T)	KCCF(A)
DOS	
DDOS(Cus)	

Foreign Office	-	Mr. A. Peasey	Min. of Civil Aviation	-	Mr. E. C. Lunnatt
Ministry of Supply	-	Mr. E. Hughes	" " " "	-	Registry
" " "	-	Mr. W. J. Carr			Tels
Foreign Office	-	Mr. Ellen	Ministry of Defence	-	Mr. A. J. Newling
			Ministry of Supply	-	Mr. G. G. G. G.

<p>41</p>	<p>Palestine</p>	<p>E2168 / G 40</p>
<p>E2168 18/10/43 Mr. Dale C.O. Mr. Beckett dated 10 Feb.</p>	<p>Position of British troops in Palestine</p>	
<p>Last Paper E2093</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p>	
<p>References E1725/8/9</p>	<p>Please see minute and draft on E 1722/8/G. The original draft telegram on that paper was seen by Mr. Fitzmaurice who approved it but asked that Mr. Beckett should see the paper after despatch. I have now added a sentence at the end of paragraph 3 of the draft telegram which deals with the point raised by Mr. Dale and goes as far as we can to meet any possible objections by the United Nations Commission. I have sent a copy of this new draft to the War Office for concurrence and meanwhile Mr. Beckett may care to have a look at the papers, as suggested by Mr. Fitzmaurice. N.B. On Mr. Beckett's minute within, I suggest that our draft telegram makes it quite plain that we are not prepared to negotiate the terms of the directive with the United Nations Commission. If there is any risk of our being pressed really hard by the Commission on this point, we should have to take steps to publish the directive straight away. It would, of course, have been approved by the Cabinet by then.</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>Fair draft tel. to N.York attached</p>	
<p>(How disposed of)</p>	<p>J.G.S. Beith. 17th February, 1948.</p>	
<p>Mr. Beckett.</p>	<p><i>J.G.S. Beith</i></p>	
<p>18/10/43</p>	<p>In para 10 of the Directive I think that the words in blue pencil should be inserted.</p>	
<p>(Action completed)</p>	<p>(Index)</p>	<p>In 4 (C) of the administrative instructions I don't find the sentence in particular the words "Sgt. Palestine" clear</p>
<p>25/1/48</p>	<p>34092</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>	<p>10/2 B P.T.O.</p>	

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16 FEB 1948

The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

*encl E
41*

My Reference

Your Reference E 1725/8/G.

10th February, 1948.

E2168

Dear Beckett,

Palestine.

Thank you very much for your letter of the 9th February about the position of the troops. I will make the addition to Clause 2 (2) of the Palestine Bill which I suggested, and the rest of your letter will help me in the note I propose to do for the Attorney-General on this and certain other points he was concerned about.

I saw a suggestion the other day that the draft Directive should be shown to the United Nations Commission and I have told the Department that it would be an advantage to have the Commission's assent to the Directive so as to get the legal position on as firm a basis as possible.

Yours sincerely,

E. Beckett

W.E.B.

I am doubtful about

*asking the Commission to assent to the Directive
as they might see it.*

W.E. Beckett, Esq., C.M.G., K.C. *If we ask assent
we shall get*

*Comments or
reports for changes
W.E.B.*

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E 2199

42

16 FEB 1948

Registry Number
FROM

E 2199/3/31

No.

40 minute
11/11/47

Dated

13 Feb

Received in Registry

16

Oil Installations in Palestine

Memorandum to the Committee on Palestine
from the I.P.C. (1) Oil Installations
in Northern Palestine. (2) Transit Rights (through
Palestine) for Transjordan Oil.

Last Paper.

2168

References.

E 11981/9373/31 47
11011/46/31 47
2300/2300/80

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

The situation described in the first of these memoranda, "Oil installations in Northern Palestine" is being carefully considered by the Official Committee on Palestine. At a meeting on February 11 the Committee:-

- (1) Invited the Ministry of Fuel and Power to consider how the gap in sterling oil supplies could be filled in the event of any failure of supplies from Haifa.
- (2) Instructed the Working Party, in the light of (1) above, to prepare a report for Ministers which would discuss the desirability of leaving behind a force to protect the Haifa refinery.

Briefly, we must expect a considerable dislocation of the output from Haifa owing to the disturbed conditions in Palestine which will inevitably arise from our withdrawal. Production has already been stopped for three weeks at a time by labour difficulties - the workmen are approximately 70% Arab, 30% Jewish. Pipeline supplies from Kirkuk will almost certainly be cut off for a period either by Iraqi official action or by Arab irregulars. But the supply of crude oil can always be renewed fairly quickly, whereas the destruction of the refinery could not be made good for several years.

The second memorandum "Transit rights through Palestine for Transjordan oil" has been the subject of correspondence with the Colonial Office. The latter have up till now been unwilling for the Palestine Govt. to give the necessary concession to the I.P.C. on the grounds that we should be accused at the United Nations of carrying through measures favourable to ourselves at the eleventh hour in Palestine and squeezing as much as we could out of the country before we left. The High Commissioner himself was willing to extend the necessary concession to the I.P.C. In a letter to the Colonial Office on E11981/9373/31 of February 3, the Foreign Office made it clear to the Colonial Office that they did not consider it necessary to be deterred by the fear of criticism and that we had good reason to claim that we were benefitting Palestine by making this arrangement.

(Action completed.)

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Next Paper.

2257

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I now understand from the Colonial Office that the result of this Foreign Office letter will be that Mr. Rees Williams will address a minute to the Secretary of State suggesting that the High Commissioner can be authorised to extend the existing I.P.C. concession to cover oil from Transjordan. This oil would, in point of fact, travel to the coast through the existing pipeline (if and when it materialises). This action will entirely meet the Foreign Office and satisfy all requirements of I.P.C. should

M. J. Beith
20th February, 1948.
(BEITH)

L. E. L. Pyman
20/2 L. E. L. PYMAN

B. B. Brown
20/2

W. L.
21/2

In P.P. by Petroleum Dept (Stephen Longrigg) & straight 4/5

Alterations made
JB Apr. 2

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The two attached papers were brought to me by Colonel Longrigg of the Iraqi Petroleum Company for information.

Please let me know whether you have any observations on them.

perks right

13th February, 1948.

~~Mr. Burrows.~~

E 2199
16 FEB 1948

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

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44

Aide Memoir on Oil Installations in Northern Palestine.

The Iraq Petroleum Company's 12" pipeline traverses Northern Palestine for a distance of 39 miles. At the western end thereof are the I.P.C. tankage and sea-loading lines: the Palestine Government's Oil Dock, used and operated by I.P.C; and important stores depot and workshops belonging to the latter, as well as its Headquarters for the Middle East: and a Refinery belonging to Consolidated Refineries Limited. The capacity of the I.P.C. pipeline at present slightly exceeds 2,000,000 tons per year, but is in process of extension by the addition of a 16" line to an annual capacity of 3,000,000 tons by late 1948, and 6,500,000 tons by mid 1949. The C.R.L. Refinery has a present potential throughput of some 4,000,000 tons annually and this is in process of great extension. It is at present refining sea-borne crude oil in addition to I.P.C. piped oil. It is obvious, therefore, that the present and future oil activity concentrated in the Haifa area is of most material importance to the oil supplies of Great Britain (including the Royal Navy), the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean, and the sterling area as a whole. The problem of the physical protection of these installations in view of the probability of serious and prolonged disorder in Palestine consequent upon the Partition project appears, therefore, one of importance and urgency.

The pipeline itself is buried. This, however, does not safeguard it from sabotage, as has been proved even in the comparatively peaceful periods of the past: moreover it is accompanied by a telegraph line entirely exposed. The fear of prolonged interference with the pipeline is perhaps less than in the case of other installations: it is, however, serious enough and interruption of supplies would, of course, bring all the rest to a standstill. The I.P.C. terminal tank farm and sea-loading lines are vulnerable to fire, sniping and bombing, and damage to an important fraction of these would interfere at once with the regularity of supplies of crude to the Refinery, and with the loading of crude through the sea lines. Damage to the Oil Dock would entirely

/prevent

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Oil Installations in Northern Palestine

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prevent the loading of refined products, thus virtually shutting down the Refinery: and damage to the Refinery which is extremely vulnerable to attack by fire or explosives, would not only prevent the production of refined products but would seriously influence the throughput of I.P.C. crude by pipeline. It is on this point to be noted that not only would it be difficult at once to divert to crude export the oil at present pumped to the Refinery, but also it is uncertain how soon refineries elsewhere in the World might be able to deal with this additional crude.

It will be seen, therefore, that the various items enumerated above are, to a very large extent, interdependent, and damage to any one would in some cases destroy, and in others seriously diminish, the value of the rest. The fact of insecurity to Haifa area would further be most serious upon the I.P.C. Management installed there, which deals with the whole of its Middle Eastern operations: and also to the possibility of maintaining stores and connected installations there on the present major scale.

Up to November, 1947, comparative security was achieved in the area by the presence of large British forces in Palestine, and by the absence of political elements of extreme provocation. At present, however, the political discords of the territory are reaching a climax and each of the two parties may well see, in damage to these installations, a means of reprisals against the other party or against H.M.G. - which is, of course, widely blamed for the present lamentable outlook. In a word, security conditions are likely to deteriorate to an immeasurable extent, and the recent episode in C.R.L. Refinery (where Jew and Arab labour has previously worked together in amity), is the first stage of this. The withdrawal of British armed forces will leave all these installations to the mercy of local events and local violence, except insofar as the Companies can make arrangements of their own; and it does not seem that steps of that kind could exceed the enrolling of a number of armed guards under the Company's own control - a step habitually taken in the past as only a minor part of total security arrangements. With the probability of one community attacking the guards and labour of the other, and neither restrained by any outside authority, the outlook is far from encouraging and might indeed

/bring

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Oil Installations in Northern Palestine

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bring the whole system to a standstill be rendering it impossible for either Arab or Jewish labour, or both, to carry out their duties at all. The difficulty for the Company of maintaining its stores, transport and communications is a further consideration.

The Company is at present engaged in moving its Administrative Headquarters for the Middle East, and some of the departments which form part of this, to the Lebanon; and is taking steps to reduce the quantity of movable stores, equipment and transport: inevitably, however, it leaves there important commitments and targets which are irremovable. Intensive efforts are also being made to complete the laying and burying of the 16" line from the Jordan to the Terminal before withdrawal of British Forces. The presence of these, for the next few months, may make possible the completion of this work, but only if there are no major attempts to interrupt it by one or the other section of the public, and if it is possible to form and maintain the Jewish gang working eastward from the Terminal, and the Arab gang working westward from the Jordan.

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12.2.48.

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47

Aide Memoir on Transit Rights (through Palestine) for Trans-jordan Oil.

A Convention was signed in May 1947 by the Trans-jordan Petroleum Company and by the Government of King Abdullah bestowing upon the Company exclusive Oil rights for Trans-jordan; the terms are practically identical with those arranged with the Government of Syria in 1938 (ratified 1940). Among the obligations assumed by the Company is that of drilling within eighteen months (to be prolonged to twenty-four months in case of necessity) from the date upon which satisfactory transit arrangements are concluded by the Company with the Government of Palestine. The conclusion of such Palestine transit arrangements is, therefore, a condition of the drilling obligation arising, a sine qua non for any physical exploitation of Trans-jordan Oil, and therefore a matter of interest to the Trans-jordan Government as well as to the Company.

The Palestine Government were approached in the middle of 1937 and appeared likely to agree to grant transit rights, on terms. These terms included modifications of the 1931 Palestine Transit Agreement and a payment by the Company to the Government - a payment which had not been demanded from Trans-Arabian Pipelines Limited when that Company secured transit rights a few months before. The matter was still under consideration when the decision was taken at Lake Success on 30th November 1947; and it emerged from that decision that any Agreement or Convention made by the Palestine Government after that date would have no validity. Consequently, and although the Company is prepared to pay a sum of £45,000 a year to the Palestine Government - exactly as it does already to the Lebanese Government, which has granted transit rights to oil other than I.P.C. Oil - no further progress has been made and no transit rights obtained.

This position is known to the Colonial Office, and to the Petroleum Department. It has lately been suggested to the latter, with the knowledge of the former, that the High Commissioner might be willing to record the willingness of his Government to accept a wider interpretation of "the undertaking" as this expression is used in the preamble to the I.P.C. 1931 Convention: in other words to admit the passage through Palestine of non-I.P.C. Oil exactly as the French High Commissioner did in 1939.

/Such.....

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68
Aide Memoir on Transit Rights (through Palestine) for Trans-Jordan Oil.

-2-

Such action by the High Commissioner might, or might not, be accepted as valid by the Successor States in Palestine, or by the Economic Council to be formed there; it would, at any rate, be better than nothing as laying a reasonable basis for later discussion.

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12.2.48.

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Aide Memoir on Transit Rights (through Palestine) for Trans-Jordan Oil.

-2-

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12.2.48.

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BENTLEY'S SECOND PHRASE
BENTLEY'S COMPLETE PHRASE WITH OIL SUPPLEMENT
LOMBARD.

IRAQ PETROLEUM COMPANY, LTD.
LONDON AND IRAQ

TELEGRAMS:
INLAND: PETRIRAQ, AVE, LONDON
FOREIGN: PETRIRAQ, LONDON

LING HOUSE,
DOMINION STREET.

Change of Address : LONDON, E.C.2.
214, OXFORD STREET, LONDON, W.1
 TELEGRAMS: PETIRAQ. WESDOE. LONDON
 TELEPHONE MUSEUM 8010

4th March, 1948.

2199 8 21

M. A. Pyman

Dear Wright,

INDEXED

We supplied you a few weeks ago with an "Aide Memoire on Oil Installations in Northern Palestine". It has been discovered that this contains an important slip. The date "1949" in the ninth line of the first page should read "1948" and "1950", in the line following, should read "1949". Would you kindly make the alteration? It is much regretted that the information given you was incorrect.

Th. p. 112

Michael Wright, Esq.,
Foreign Office,
Downing Street,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

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1948	Palestine EASTERN	Eassy/G 50
42 E2251 8 1 1/2 31/6 Mr. Munnice Cabinet Office London	Palestine Bill	
Last Paper E2168	(Minutes)	
References	See within 1. H.P.C (48) 4th Htg 3 Feb. JB Eh. 20	
(Print)		
(How disposed of)		
(Action completed) p. 23/2	(Index) W. H.	
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enter 51

P. also given

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Most of Mr. Munie's six points arise from the general situation in and concerning Palestine rather than from the Bill in particular. If the Colonial Secretary introduces the measure, it will be for the Colonial Office to advise him.

With reference to the last sentence of (b), it is expected that the directive will be made public shortly.

H. Bealey 7/2

Mr. Bealey. q
WGB 2.

Nothing to be Written in this Margin.

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Foreign Secretary

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LORD PRESIDENT

Palestine Bill

At yesterday's Legislation Committee you undertook to bring to the attention of the Prime Minister the difficulties likely to arise during the passage of the Palestine Bill through Parliament. It was, I think, your intention to send the Prime Minister a note on the subject and you hoped to get the help of the Lord Chancellor and the Attorney-General in preparing it.

2. The question of Palestine is, however, coming up at the meeting of the Cabinet to-morrow at 5 p.m., and it might be convenient if you mentioned at that meeting the anxiety of the Legislation Committee about the Palestine Bill.

3. The main points on which the Government are likely to be criticised in the debates on the Bill are:-

(a) There will, no doubt, be general criticism of our evacuation policy, and the Government is likely to be strongly attacked by members with Zionist sympathies who will allege that the United Nations plan has been sabotaged through our unwillingness to co-operate with the United Nations Commission.

(b) Clause 2 of the Bill, which confers an indemnity for acts done in good faith after the surrender of the mandate, will no doubt lead to questions about the unprecedented position of the United Kingdom Forces in Palestine between 15th May and 1st August. A directive to the G.O.C. on this matter is being prepared and when it has been approved by the Defence Committee will probably be published. It might be desirable to publish this directive before the Second Reading debate on the Bill.

(c) Clauses 3 and 4 of the Bill, which deal with the repeal of United Kingdom enactments applying or extending to Palestine and the continuance in force of these enactments for certain purposes after the appointed day, are difficult to understand, and the Secretary of State for the Colonies will have to exercise great care in explaining them to the House.

(d) Nothing is said in the Bill about the position of officials of the Palestine Government after the appointed day. A satisfactory agreement on the treatment of British subjects has already been reached and the Colonial Office hope to reach a satisfactory settlement on the treatment of Palestinians within a week's time. It is essential that this point should be cleared up before the Second Reading debate.

(e) There will no doubt be questions about the transfer of the assets and liabilities of the Palestine Government and about kindred matters such as the future of our oil interests and the disposal of German assets. The Cabinet have already approved (C. 1. (48) 8th Conclusions, Minute 6) certain recommendations on these matters, but the Secretary of State for the Colonies ought to be prepared to make statements about them in the House.

(f) There may well be a good deal of criticism - especially in the House of Lords - of the decision taken by the Defence Committee that it would be impossible to leave United Kingdom Forces in Palestine to protect the Holy Places.

(Sgd.) W.S. MURRIE.

4th February, 1948.

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Mr. Heckett - 53

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SECRET

H.P.C.(48)4th Meeting

COPY NO. 22

CABINET

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting of the Committee held
in Conference Room 'B', Cabinet Office,
Great George Street, S.W.1. on
TUESDAY, 3RD FEBRUARY, 1948 at 9.45 a.m.

PRESENT:

The Rt. Hon. Herbert Morrison, M.P.,
Lord President of the Council (In the Chair)

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Jowitt,
Lord Chancellor.

The Rt. Hon. Viscount Addison,
Lord Privy Seal.

The Rt. Hon. J. Chuter Ede, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the
Home Department.

The Rt. Hon. A. Woodburn, M.P.,
Secretary of State for
Scotland.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Hartley Shawcross,
K.C., M.P., Attorney General.

The Rt. Hon. A.C. Hall, M.P.,
Financial Secretary,
Treasury.

The Rt. Hon. William Whiteley, M.P.,
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury.

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT:

The Rt. Hon. A. Creech Jones, M.P.,
Secretary of State for the
Colonies.

The Rt. Hon. G.A. Isaacs, M.P.,
Minister of Labour and
National Service.

The Rt. Hon. John Strachey, M.P.,
Minister of Food.

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of
Listowel, Minister of State
for Colonial Affairs.

and officials of Departments concerned.

SECRETARIAT:

Mr. W.S. Murrie.
Mr. R.J.E. Taylor.

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1. PROGRESS OF LEGISLATION
(Previous Reference: H.P.C.(48) 2nd Meeting, Minute 1)

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that, in addition to the Bills added to the Programme at the last monthly review, the British Nationality Bill and the Merchant Shipping Acts (Amendment) Bill, which were to have been ready for this meeting, were still outstanding, though it was hoped that they would be ready for the meeting on 10th February. It was important that all outstanding Bills should be introduced as soon as possible.

THE CHIEF WHIP said that there would be severe congestion at the end of the Session unless all outstanding Bills were introduced in the next few weeks.

THE HOME SECRETARY said that the British Nationality Bill would be ready for consideration by the Committee on 10th February.

The Committee:-

Invited Ministers responsible for Bills included in the Programme which had not yet been introduced to make every effort to expedite their preparation.

2. PALESTINE BILL

The Committee considered a memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Colonies (H.P.C.(48) 11) covering a draft Palestine Bill.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE COLONIES said that, in accordance with the policy approved by the Cabinet, the Bill provided for the termination of His Majesty's jurisdiction in Palestine on 15th May and for certain consequential matters.

The following points arose in discussion:-

- (a) The Bill made no specific provision for pensions and other payments due to officers of the Palestine Government and it would be necessary to make a statement of the Government's intentions in this matter during the Second Reading debate. A satisfactory agreement had been reached on the treatment of those who were British subjects and it was hoped to settle with the Treasury within a week or ten days the question of the treatment of those who were Palestinians.
- (b) The Bill made no specific provision for the transfer of assets and liabilities of the Palestine Government to the successor authorities, though Clause 4(2)(c) conferred power to provide by Order in Council for the disposal of property belonging to that Government. The problems connected with the transfer of assets and liabilities were being discussed with the United Nations Commission, but it would not be possible to assess what, if any, financial liability would fall on His Majesty's Government until after 15th May.

THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL pointed out that it might be contended that any Government property left in Palestine after 15th May should be regarded as having been abandoned.

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- (c) Clause 2(1) provided that appeals to His Majesty in Council from the Palestine courts which were pending on 15th May should abate on that day. The Judicial Committee of the Privy Council were trying to expedite the hearing of outstanding appeals from Palestine but it seemed unlikely that all could be disposed of before 15th May.

THE LORD CHANCELLOR pointed out that appellants whose cases were still outstanding on 15th May would be faced with the loss of the expenses incurred in preparing their cases, and suggested that there might be a case for granting some compensation to those who suffered in this way.

- (d) Doubts were expressed about the provision in Clause 4(2)(a) enabling Orders in Council to be made directing that enactments which by virtue of the Bill ceased to apply or extend to Palestine should continue to apply or extend to Palestine for such time after the appointed day as might be specified. Was not this tantamount to taking power to legislate for a country outside His Majesty's jurisdiction?

In reply it was pointed out that the provisions of the Orders in Council would not affect the law of Palestine, but only the law of the United Kingdom in so far as it related to Palestine. This was made clear in Clause 3(a) and (b). The wording of Clause 4(2)(a) would, however, be reconsidered.

- (e) The indemnity for acts done in good faith conferred by Clause 2(2) would be binding only on the United Kingdom and Commonwealth courts. The situation in Palestine after 15th May would, however, be unprecedented and it was impossible to say what the position of the United Kingdom forces would be under international law.
- (f) The question whether Orders in Council made under Clause 4 should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure should be examined.

THE LORD PRESIDENT said that the Bill was likely to lead to considerable discussion in Parliament and that, before it was introduced, he proposed to inform the Prime Minister of the difficulties likely to arise during its passage.

The Committee:-

- (1) Took note that the Lord President would bring to the attention of the Prime Minister the difficulties likely to arise during the passage of the Palestine Bill through Parliament.
- (2) Subject to (1) and to any minor or drafting amendments which might be found necessary, approved the draft Palestine Bill in the form attached to H.P.C.(48) 11.

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3. REGULATION OF GREYHOUND RACING

(Previous Reference: H.P.C.(48) 2nd Meeting, Minute 1)

The Committee considered a memorandum by the Home Secretary (H.P.C.(48) 12) dealing with the continuance of restrictions on greyhound racing.

THE HOME SECRETARY said that it would be necessary to introduce a new Bill to continue after 30th June the existing restrictions on betting on greyhound racing, since there was no power to make new regulations for this purpose and no existing regulation capable of being varied so as to enable the required restrictions to be imposed. He proposed to include in the Bill powers to impose on unlicensed tracks the same restrictions as now applied to licensed tracks. Power would be taken in the new Bill to extend its operation from year to year by Order in Council.

In discussion the following points arose:-

- (a) It would not be practicable to provide for the continuance of the restrictions in future years by means of the Expiring Laws Continuance Bill.
- (b) The Orders in Council continuing the restrictions should be subject to the affirmative resolution procedure.

The Committee:-

Agreed that a Dog Racecourse Betting Bill should be included among those to be passed in the current Session and invited the Home Secretary to give Parliamentary Counsel instructions for its preparation as soon as possible.

4. FOOD RATIONING (GENERAL PROVISIONS) ORDER, 1947 (AMENDMENT NO. 3) ORDER

The Committee considered a memorandum by the Minister of Food (H.P.C.(48) 10) covering a draft Order amending the Food Rationing (General Provisions) Order, 1947.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD explained that the object of the Order was to permit, during the continuance of the Food Rationing (General Provisions) Order, 1947, the pre-packing and sale of straight-rationed foods in quantities other than the even multiples of weight specified in Section 4(2) of the Sale of Food (Weights and Measures) Act, 1926. This statutory ban on the pre-packing of food in odd weights had caused much inconvenience to packers, especially retailers, since individual rations of straight-rationed foods had often to be fixed at an odd number of ounces. The Order had the support of the Board of Trade and would be welcomed by both traders and consumers.

In discussion the following points arose:-

- (a) It was explained that retailers who pre-packed food on their own premises would be obliged to mark with a legible statement of weight all packages weighing an odd number of ounces. The existing exemption from this obligation for packages made up in certain multiples of 8 ounces would, however, remain.

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- (b) It would be advisable to redraft the explanatory note with a view to explaining the effect of the Order more clearly. Sir William Leitch should be consulted on this point.
- (c) The consent of the Legislation Committee need not be sought for the inclusion of similar provisions in future Food Rationing (General Provisions) Orders.

The Committee:-

- (1) Invited the Minister of Food to consider, in consultation with Sir William Leitch, how the explanatory note appended to the Order should be redrafted in order to meet the point raised at (b).
- (2) Subject to (1) above, approved the draft Food Rationing (General Provisions) Order, 1947, (Amendment No. 3) Order in the form attached to H.P.C.(48) 10.

Cabinet Office, S.V.1.

3RD JANUARY, 1948.

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58

E 2334

ALESTINE

18 FEB 1948

Registry
Number
FROM

E2334/8/31

No.

Dated

Received
in RegistryP. Q.
Major Kipton
Blamich
16 Feb
18 -

Disposal of Surplus Stores in Palestine
 Mr. Kipton Blamich asked what is total
 estimated value of British Stores and equipment in
 Palestine, whether majority of such stores is being
 sold by private treaty or public tender, and
 whether it is anticipated that the system of
 employment will not result in needlessly heavy
 losses to British taxpayers.
 Mr. G. Strauss: It is possible to estimate value
 of stores by conventional tender a satisfactory method.

Last Paper.

2257

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Minutes.)

18 Feb. 18

(Action
completed.)

G. E. 19/2

(Index.)

18/1

Next Paper.

2345

26513 F.O.P.

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

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EASTERN

Parliamentary Question

18 FEB 1948

46. Major Tufton Beamish.—To ask the Minister of Supply, what is the total estimated value of British stores and equipment in Palestine, of which he is disposing; whether the majority of such stores is being sold by private treaty or public tender; and whether he is satisfied that the system he is employing will not result in needlessly heavy losses to British taxpayers. [Monday 16th February.]

Lewis.

ANSWERED 16 FEB 1948
REPLY ATTACHED.

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

**Surplus Stores, Palestine
(Disposal)**

Major Beamish asked the Minister of Supply what is the total estimated value of British stores and equipment in Palestine, of which he is disposing; whether the majority of such stores is being sold by private treaty or public tender; and whether he is satisfied that the system he is employing will not result in needlessly heavy losses to British taxpayers.

Mr. G. R. Strauss: It is not possible to estimate the value of surpluses in course of disposal and of those yet to be declared. Sales are normally by competitive tender, and I am satisfied that the methods of disposal are producing the maximum revenue.

(165)

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19. Major Tufton Beamish,—To ask the Minister of Supply, what is the total estimated value of British stores and equipment in Palestine, of which he is disposing; whether the majority of such stores is being sold by private treaty or public tender; and whether he is satisfied that the system he is employing will not result in needlessly heavy losses to British taxpayers.

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY

DRAFT REPLY.

It is not possible to estimate the value of surpluses in course of disposal and of those yet to be declared. Sales are normally by competitive tender and I am satisfied that the methods of disposal are producing the maximum revenue.

Eastern Dept. *BMB* 14.2
Private Secretary. for concurrence

Left



Ministry of Supply informed.

Σ. 16/11

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PARLIAMENTARY
 Surplus Stores, Palestine
 (Disposal)

Major Beamish asked the Minister of Supply what is the total estimated value of British stores and equipment in Palestine, of which he is disposing; whether the majority of such stores is being sold by private treaty or public tender; and whether he is satisfied that the system he is employing will not result in needlessly heavy losses to British taxpayers.

Mr. G. R. Strauss: It is not possible to estimate the value of surpluses in course of disposal and of those yet to be declared. Sales are normally by competitive tender, and I am satisfied that the methods of disposal are producing the maximum revenue.

16 FEB 1946

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1948

E

PALESTINE

E 2345

62

19 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 2345/8/31

W. L. Dale

Colonial Office

L. M. Beckett

16 Feb

19

Palestine Bill.transmits copy of draft of the Palestine Bill
(H.C. 12 GEO. 6)This will not be the last draft, further
instructions have been sent to Parliamentary
Council.

(Minutes.)

Last Paper.

2334

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

(Index.)

Next Paper.

26513 F.O.P.

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My Reference

Your Reference

The Church House,
Great Smith Street,
S.W.1.

16th February, 1948.

E 204.

19 FEB 1946

Dear Beckett,

I enclose a copy of the draft of the Palestine Bill which I understand you were asking for. It is ^{the} ~~is~~ not the last draft ^{for} which I have sent further instructions to Parliamentary Counsel.

Yours sincerely,

Wade.

W.E. Beckett, Esq., C.M.G., K.C.

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64

SECRET

II & I2 GEO. 6.

Palestine.

I

DRAFT

OF A

B I L L

TO

Make provision with respect to the termination of His Majesty's jurisdiction in Palestine, and for purposes connected therewith. A.D. 1948.

BE it enacted by the King's most Excellent Majesty, by and with the advice and consent of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons, in this present Parliament assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows :—

5 1.—(1) On the fifteenth day of May, nineteen hundred and forty-eight, being the date on which the mandate in respect of Palestine accepted by His Majesty on behalf of the League of Nations will determine (in this Act referred to as "the appointed day"), any jurisdiction of His Majesty in Palestine shall determine, and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom shall cease to be responsible for the government of Palestine. **Termination of His Majesty's jurisdiction in Palestine.**

(2) Nothing in this Act shall affect the jurisdiction of His Majesty, or any powers of the Admiralty, the Army Council or the Air Council, or of any other authority, in relation to any of His Majesty's forces which may be in Palestine on or after the appointed day. **15**

2.—(1) Any appeal to His Majesty in Council which, on the appointed day, is pending from any court in Palestine, not being a prize court constituted under the Prize Acts, 1864 to 1944, shall abate on that day. **20** **Legal proceedings.**

(2) No proceeding, whether civil or criminal, shall be instituted in any court to which this subsection applies in respect of anything done, whether within or outside Palestine, by any person in the

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A.D. 1948. service of His Majesty or by any person acting under the authority of any such person, if done in good faith and done or purported to be done in the execution of his duty—

(a) before the appointed day, for the maintenance of order and good government in Palestine ; or

(b) whether before, on or after that day, for the purpose of or in connection with the withdrawal from Palestine of any such forces as are mentioned in section one of this Act, or of any stores or other property belonging to His Majesty or to any such forces :

Provided that nothing in this subsection shall prevent the institution of any proceedings on behalf of His Majesty.

(3) The courts to which the last foregoing subsection applies are any courts, not being courts martial, in any part of His Majesty's dominions, or exercising jurisdiction on behalf of His Majesty in any territory outside His Majesty's dominions, except courts in a Dominion within the meaning of the Statute of Westminster, 1931, or in India, Pakistan, Ceylon or Southern Rhodesia, or in any territory administered by the government of any such Dominion or country as aforesaid.

(4) For the purposes of this section, a certificate by a Government department that anything was done under the authority of a person in the service of His Majesty, or was done in the execution of his duty, shall be sufficient evidence of the matter so certified ; and anything done by or under the authority of a person in the service of His Majesty shall be deemed to have been done in good faith unless the contrary is proved.

Repeal of enactments.

3.—(1) The enactments specified in the Schedule to this Act are hereby repealed to the extent specified in the third column of that Schedule.

(2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, any other enactment of the Parliament of the United Kingdom which, immediately before the appointed day, applies or extends to Palestine, whether by virtue of any Order in Council or otherwise, shall cease on the appointed day to apply or extend to Palestine :

Provided that—

(a) the provisions of this subsection shall not extend to Palestine as part of the law thereof ; and

(b) nothing in this subsection shall be construed as preventing the application of any such enactment to Palestine, or any part thereof, as a foreign country in which His Majesty has no jurisdiction.

Transitory provisions.

4.—(1) Without prejudice to the following provisions of this section, subsection (2) of section thirty-eight of the Interpretation Act, 1889 (which relates to the effect of repeals) shall have effect in relation to any enactment which ceases by virtue of this Act

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to apply or extend to Palestine, as if that enactment had been repealed by this Act. A.D. 1948.

(2) His Majesty may by Order in Council make such transitory provisions as appear to him to be necessary or expedient in consequence of the termination of His jurisdiction in Palestine and of the provisions of this Act, and any such Order in Council may in particular—

(a) direct that any such enactment as is mentioned in the foregoing subsection shall continue to apply or extend to Palestine during such period after the appointed day as may be determined by or under the Order, subject to such modifications (if any) as may be specified in the Order ;

(b) direct that anything done under any such enactment before the appointed day, or during any subsequent period specified as aforesaid, shall continue to have effect as if that enactment had not ceased to apply or extend to Palestine ;

(c) make provision for the disposal or application of any property vested in or belonging to the Government of Palestine or any public authority constituted under any law in force in Palestine before the appointed day.

(3) Any enactment relating to superannuation shall have effect, in relation to any person who holds office in the service of the Government of Palestine immediately before the appointed day, as if he continued to hold office during such period after that day as may be determined by or under any Order in Council made under this section.

(4) An Order in Council under this section may be made either before, on or after the appointed day, and if made after that day may be made so as to take effect as from that day or as from such later date as may be specified therein.

(5) An Order in Council made under this section may be varied or revoked by a subsequent Order in Council made thereunder.

(6) Any Order in Council made under this section shall be subject to annulment in pursuance of a resolution of either House of Parliament.

5. This Act may be cited as the Palestine Act, 1948.

Short title.

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A.D. 1948.

SCHEDULE.

ENACTMENTS REPEALED.

Session and Chapter.	Short Title.	Extent of Repeal.
16 & 17 Geo. 5. c. 62.	The Palestine and East Africa Loans Act, 1926.	In the title, the words "res- pectively by the Government of Palestine and". In section one, in subsection (1), the words "any loan raised by the Government of Palestine for 10 the purposes set out in the First Schedule to this Act and" and the words from "as respects", in the first place where those words occur, to "aforesaid"; 15 in subsection (2), the words from "in the case of" in the first place where those words occur to "aforesaid", the words "in either case", the 20 words "the said First Schedule or", the words "as the case may be" and the words "in the case of a loan to be raised by any Government other than 25 the Government of Palestine". In section two, the words "Palestine and". The First Schedule.
18 & 19 Geo. 5. c. 17.	The Finance Act, 1928.	In subsection (2) of section thirty- 30 two, the words "Palestine and".
21 & 22 Geo. 5. c. 21.	The Palestine and East Africa Loans (Amendment) Act, 1931.	In the title, the words "Palestine and". In section one, the words "Palestine and". 35 In section two, the words "Palestine and", wherever those words occur.
24 & 25 Geo. 5. c. 33.	The Palestine Loan Act, 1934.	The whole Act. 40

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<p>43</p> <p>1948</p>	<p>Palestine</p> <p>EASTERN</p>	<p>E2374 /G</p> <p>185</p> <p>66</p>
<p>E 2374/8/9 31/6</p> <p>Cabinet Office</p> <p>COB(48)20th HQ</p> <p>Pin 5</p> <p>Dated 9 Feb.</p>	<p>Withdrawal from Palestine</p>	
<p>Last Paper</p> <p>E 2257</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p> <p>10 Feb. 20</p>	
<p>References</p> <p>E1593/8/9</p>		
<p>(Print)</p>		
<p>(How disposed of)</p>		
<p>(Action completed)</p> <p>25/20/7</p>	<p>(Index)</p> <p>W. 24</p>	
<p>Next Paper</p>		

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C.O.S(48) 20th Mtg.

E2344

67

9 Feb 1948.

5. WITHDRAWAL FROM PALESTINE

C.O.S.(48) 23 (O)

(Previous Reference: C.O.S.(48) 15th Mtg. Min. 4)

THE COMMITTEE took note of a Note by the Secretary covering a minute from the Minister of Defence in which he:-

1) Confidential
2) Secret

(a) Stated that there was not to be at present any change in the present plan of withdrawal from Palestine.

(b) Asked for a regular monthly report on the progress of the withdrawal covering both civil and military aspects to be co-ordinated by the Official Committee on Palestine for submission to Ministers, and that he personally wished to have a fortnightly report on the progress of military withdrawal.

The draft telegram at Annex II to the Note by the Secretary was accordingly dispatched^x to the Commander-in-Chief, Middle East.

^x Sent as COS(ME) 201

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C.O.S.(48) 23 (O)

27th January, 1948

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

WITHDRAWAL FROM PALESTINE

Note by the Secretary

At Annex I is a minute from the Minister of Defence to the Chiefs of Staff in which he -

- (a) Informs the Chiefs of Staff of the agreement of the Foreign Secretary and the Colonial Secretary that there should not be at present any change from the present plan for withdrawal from Palestine.
 - (b) Asks for regular monthly reports on the progress of the withdrawal, embracing both the civil and military sides, to be co-ordinated by the Official Committee on Palestine and submitted to the Defence Committee or Ministers concerned. He himself, however, wishes to have fortnightly reports of the military progress of withdrawal.
2. I suggest you may wish to inform the Commanders-in-Chief of the Minister's decision at (a) above and I attach a draft telegram for your approval at Annex II.
 3. With regard to (b) above, I suggest you instruct me to draw the attention of the Chairman of the Official Committee on Palestine to the Minister's decision with regard to the co-ordinated monthly progress reports.

(Signed) D.C. STAPLETON

Ministry of Defence, S.W.1.
27th January, 1948.

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C.O.S.
27th Jan

to the
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(b)

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3. draw the Palestine co-ordin

Ministry
27th Jan

C.O.S. (48) 23 (0)

27th January, 1948CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEEWITHDRAWAL FROM PALESTINENote by the Secretary

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 - (b) Asks for regular monthly reports on the progress of the withdrawal, embracing both the civil and military sides, to be co-ordinated by the Official Committee on Palestine and submitted to the Defence Committee or Ministers concerned. He himself, however, wishes to have fortnightly reports of the military progress of withdrawal.
2. I suggest you may wish to inform the Commanders-in-Chief of the Minister's decision at (a) above and I attach a draft telegram for your approval at Annex II.
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(Signed) D.C. STAPLETON

Ministry of Defence, S.W.1.
27th January, 1948.

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ANNEX I

COPY OF A MINUTE FROM THE MINISTER OF
DEFENCE TO THE CHIEFS OF STAFF

On Saturday, 24th January, I discussed the plan for the withdrawal from Palestine with the Foreign Secretary and Colonial Secretary, having previously sent them the attached aide-memoire based on your advice to me.

2. My recommendations in paragraph 15 of the aide memoire were finally accepted, though not without some difficulty. If events in Palestine deteriorate, His Majesty's Government will be under great pressure from Parliament to speed up our withdrawal. Whilst I realise that withdrawal itself presents many difficulties, the success or otherwise attending the maintenance of law and order in the areas for which we remain responsible will bear directly on the degree of pressure to accelerate our withdrawal.
3. The present position, therefore, is that there is to be no change from Plan A and that the Mandate will be terminated on the 15th of May and all troops and stores due to be evacuated must be withdrawn from Palestine by 1st August.
4. In the course of our discussions, we agreed that it was essential to see regular Progress Reports during withdrawal. Apart from the progress of military evacuation, the Colonial Secretary will be arranging for reports on the civil aspects of withdrawal.
5. Since these discussions, I have today seen the first of the Monthly Progress Reports, the form and substance of which will largely meet the details which we wished included in them. There are one or two minor additions which I should like made and I have asked the Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee to inform the War Office and Air Ministry of these details.
6. I think it would be a more satisfactory arrangement if a comprehensive civil and military Progress Report was co-ordinated by the Official Committee on Palestine. The frequency of these reports, either to the Defence Committee or to Ministers concerned, need not be more than once a month. I should, however, like to be kept informed fortnightly of the military progress of withdrawal. I suggest that this information should be conveyed to me in the form of a supplementary report to the comprehensive report from the Official Committee.

(Intld.) A.V.A.

/ Appendix to Annex I

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APPENDIX TO ANNEX I.

COPY OF MINUTE FROM THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Following our talk yesterday about the possibility of advancing the date of the termination of the Mandate in Palestine, I have been into the matter again in great detail. I am convinced that, for the reasons set out in detail below, it would be most inadvisable to contemplate any earlier termination than the agreed date of May 15th. Perhaps when you and the Secretary of State for the Colonies (to whom I am sending a copy of this minute) have considered the matter we might have a further discussion.

2. The present date for termination of the Mandate, i.e., 15th May, was decided upon by the Defence Committee at their 25th Meeting on 27th November last after full discussion. The decision was taken in the light of -

(i) The damage to the prestige of His Majesty's Government, the loss of military stores, and the major disruption of the shipping programme that would result from an early termination (i.e., Plan B);

(ii) The possibility of trouble with the Jews resulting from either hanging on too long or running out too early.

3. In the discussions between Departments leading up to this decision, all the present troubles were foreseen - and indeed it was because of prospective deterioration of relations between Jews and Arabs that the Service Departments were so insistent upon civil administration remaining in being until the military stores were concentrated.

4. One of the main arguments of those who now wish to advance the date of the termination of the Mandate is that the decision to retain the Mandate until 15th May was also based on the High Commissioner's advice that the Arabs would not make trouble for us while we were still in charge, and that the Arabs have failed to keep this undertaking. The Defence Committee adopted the present plan of withdrawal on 27th November and the first hint of an undertaking by the Arabs was apparently not received by us until 4th December.

5. The initiative in the present proposals to advance the date did not come from Palestine, but derived from Colonial Office telegram No. 44 dated 5th January.

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6. The Commanders-in-Chief say categorically in their telegram 200/CCL of 10th January that there is no military reason for giving up the Mandate earlier. The Chiefs of Staff support them emphatically.

7. It is true that they now say they could concentrate the stores within the Haifa and Rafa enclaves somewhat earlier than in their original estimate, but they still cannot do so before 1st May. To terminate the Mandate before these stores are into the enclaves will certainly lead to severe losses because of the conditions mentioned below.

8. As soon as the Mandate is relinquished it is quite certain that the public services, e.g., railways, etc. in which the operatives are mixed Jews and Arabs will come to a full stop.

9. The military cannot take over these services except in limited areas, so, if the Mandate is given up as proposed on 1st April, the railways will not work and we could not possibly "fight" stores into the enclaves that would have taken a month to get in when the railways were operating.

10. The reason why stores cannot be evacuated from Haifa more quickly is the purely physical limitation of the railways and ports etc. Only if the requirements of the general commercial traffic of Palestine were disregarded altogether could the process of moving the stores be speeded up appreciably. Food must continue to be brought in and the other economic necessities of Palestine including the citrus traffic provided for. Haifa is the only deep water port at which the necessary ships can be berthed and, when reasonable allowance has been made for the minimum trade requirements of the country, the margin of handling capacity and berthage space is 5,000 tons a week. This will be used to capacity and every other practicable step is being, and will be, taken to speed up the evacuation of stores but the total which must be passed through Haifa will amount to 200,000 tons. The Marine Commando left Malta for Haifa some days ago. General Hewer, who has been charged by me with the special mission of advising and assisting with the implementation of the stores evacuation plans, is already on the spot and his efforts will, I have no doubt, ensure that no useful expedient is overlooked which could lead to an improvement in the rate of evacuation, but it would be idle to expect spectacular results from his activities.

11. There cannot be any question of forfeiting or losing these stores by leaving them behind. There has been mentioned that the date for final evacuation from Palestine, i.e., 1st August, could be advanced if the urge of necessity similar to a war operation was applied. In a wartime evacuation, the first priority was always to get the troops away. Any stores lost were then replaced in a matter of weeks from production. Nowadays there is no new production of equipment or warlike stores nor any reserves from which to make good the deficiency. The stores to be evacuated from Haifa are essentially required for further use elsewhere in the Middle East, and their loss, even though the financial loss could be accepted, would directly affect the mobility and efficiency of the Army and Royal Air Force units.

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12. From the point of view of the Services, earlier termination of the Mandate would be even more serious now than when the present date was decided upon, for it is now quite clear that the ending of the Mandate will be the signal for really serious trouble. It is apparently only the presence of British troops which is preventing a "blood-bath" in Palestine.

13. There are many things to be settled which are vital to the military plan, e.g., continued service of some of the police and the running of public services in such limited areas as possible. The Staffs are working on plans for these now, but even by 15th May we may not be ready. To drop everything on 1st April would leave the army in a very awkward position.

14. What is wanted is firm support for the present administration from London in the present admittedly difficult conditions. We ought not to allow it to be said of us that we were driven to a helter-skelter departure from Palestine by Jews or Arabs.

15. I therefore recommend that there should be no departure from the present plan, from the date for the termination of the Mandate, nor from the date of 1st August for final evacuation.

(Signed) A.V.ALEXANDER

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ANNEX II

DRAFT TELEGRAM FROM THE CHIEFS OF STAFF
TO THE COMMANDERS-IN-CHIEF, MIDDLE EAST

C.O.S.(ME) 194.

Ministers have now agreed that there should be no change from the present plan of withdrawal from Palestine.

2. For your personal information, in informing us of their decision Ministers said that if situation deteriorated they might be under great pressure to speed up withdrawal and that their ability to withstand this pressure might depend largely upon maintenance of law and order in areas for which we remain responsible.

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1948

PALESTINE

E 2437

74

20 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E2437/2/31

P.Q.

Mr. F. H. Morrison

18 Feb

20 -

Disposal of Surplus Stores in Palestine

Mr. F. H. Morrison. Asked what is anticipated
to be the value of British Govt property in Palestine:
and what sum has so far been realised by disposal.
Mr. R. A. Maitland. Referred first part of question
to reply given to Mr. H. 17 Dec. Approximately
2½ million pounds was realised by the sale of
surplus stores etc up to 31 Dec.

Last Paper.

2374

(Minutes.)

B Feb 20

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

J.E.H. 23/2

(Index)

23/2

Next Paper.

2438

26513 F.O.P.

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EASTERN.

2437

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Parliamentary Questions 148

*107. Mr. John Morrison.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, what is the estimated total value of British Government property in Palestine; and what sum has so far been realised by disposal. [Wednesday 18th February.]

Salisbury.

ANSWERED 18 FEB 1948

RECEIVED.

F.O. ARE NOT ASKED TO ADVISE

PALESTINE

Surplus Stores and Equipment
(Disposal)

77. Mr. J. Morrison asked the Secretary of State for the Colonies what is the estimated total value of British Government property in Palestine; and what sum has so far been realised by disposal.

Mr. Rees-Williams: British Government property in Palestine is, with certain minor exceptions, either surplus military stores and equipment or Services fixed assets. With regard to the first part of the Question I would refer the hon. Member to the reply given by the Minister of Defence to the hon. Member for North Blackpool (Mr. Law) on 17th December last. With regard to the second part of the Question, approximately 2½ million pounds was realised by the sale of surplus stores and equipment up to 31st December. Disposal of fixed assets has not yet taken place on a large scale; information regarding the proceeds is not immediately available, and further questions on this subject should be addressed to the Secretary of State for War.

(233)

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1948

PALESTINE

20 FEB 1948

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

C2438/8/21

P.Q.

Mr. John Harrison

18 Feb

20 -

Removal of surplus stores in Palestine

Mr. John Harrison, asked whether of supply what
arrangements are being made to dispose of surplus food
supplies in Palestine and whether patients of British
Hospital were being safeguarded.Mr. Harrison. A quantity of supply disposed of
has been disposing of surplus stores for nearly 3
years. Whilst it is stated that supplies are
being safeguarded.

Last Paper.

2437

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

J.C.M. 23/2

(Index.)

J.C.M. 18

Next Paper.

2570

226513 F.O.P.

10 Feb. 20

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RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E 77 E

Minister of Supply.

*108. Mr. John Morrison.—To ask the Secretary of State for the Colonies, what arrangements are being made to dispose of surplus Government property in Palestine, and if he is satisfied that the interests of the British taxpayer are being safeguarded so far as is possible.
[Wednesday 18th February.]

ANSWERED 18 FEB 1948
REPLY ATTACHED

MINISTRY OF SUPPLY DRAFT REPLY.

E 2438

20 FEB 1948

A Ministry of Supply Disposals Mission with headquarters in Cairo and a Branch Office in Jerusalem has been disposing of surplus stores and equipment in the Middle East for nearly three years. Both the Ministry of Supply and the War Office, who are responsible for the disposal of service fixed assets, have made special arrangements to deal with the greatly increased amount of property now to be disposed of in Palestine and my Right Honourable Friend is satisfied that everything possible is being done to safeguard the interests of the British taxpayer.

Eastern Dept. *BAB*
17.2

Private Secretary.

for concurrence.

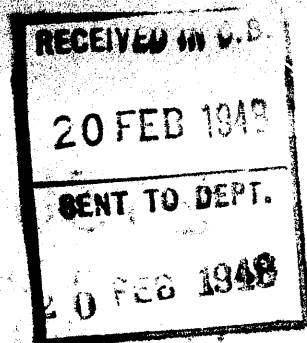
F.O. Concurrence.

Ministry of Supply informed.

18/ii

(237)

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MINISTRY OF SUPPLY
Surplus Stores and Equipment,
Palestine

96. **Mr. J. Morrison** asked the Minister of Supply what arrangements are being made to dispose of surplus Government property in Palestine, and if he is satisfied that the interests of the British taxpayer are being safeguarded so far as is possible.

Mr. Freeman: A Ministry of Supply Disposals Mission, with headquarters in Cairo and a branch office in Jerusalem, has been disposing of surplus stores and equipment in the Middle East for nearly three years. Both the Ministry of Supply and the War Office, who are responsible for the disposal of Service fixed assets, have made special arrangements to deal with the greatly increased amount of property now to be disposed of in Palestine and my right hon. Friend is satisfied that everything possible is being done to safeguard the interests of the British taxpayer.

18 FEB 1948

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1948	EASTERN	EDS 1/G 24 FEB 1948
EDS 1/G 3 1/4 Mr. Duke C.O. Command dated 20 Feb.	Evacuation from Tallinn	
Last Paper EDS 10	(Minutes)	
References	I agree with Mr Duke J. J. Seins Feb. 25	
(Print)	W. J. 287	
(How disposed of)		
(Action completed) 25 1/3	(Index) up.	
Next Paper		

24 FEB 1948
Mr. H. Beeley, C.B.E., Foreign Office

With Mr. S.E.V. Luke's compliments.

E 20th February, 1948.

E2571

24 FEB 1948

My dear Martin,

..... I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from the Secretary of the Chiefs of Staff Committee about a request which has been received from the Commander-in-Chief, United States Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, for permission to see the details of the Palestine evacuation plan.

It seems to me that the question of the arrangements to be made for protection of American nationals may already have been considered in Palestine, and I should have thought that the best course would be for the American Consul-General to raise the matter direct with the High Commissioner.

Could you please advise what reply I should send to Stapleton on this point? I am rather doubtful whether any useful purpose would be served by placing it on the agenda for the Official Committee on Palestine.

I am sending copies of this letter to Beeley and Hamilton.

Yours ever,
S.E.V. LUKE

J. M. Martin, Esq., C.B., C.V.O.,
Colonial Office.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
GREAT GEORGE STREET, S.W. 1.

REFERENCE: G. O. S. 277/18"2/8

SECRET

18th February, 1948

Dear Luke,

The First Sea Lord reported to the Chiefs of Staff this morning that Admiral Connolly, Commander-in-Chief, U. S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, had sent his Intelligence Officer to the Admiralty to ask if he might be permitted to see the details of the British military evacuation scheme for Palestine. The apparent purpose of this enquiry was to find out the plan of withdrawal so that the Americans might judge by what dates American nationals would be in areas evacuated by the British. The Americans are aware that their nationals will probably be in great danger of their lives if left without any protection, and will wish to know either what plans we have prepared for affording protection to American nationals or whether some American assistance should be given, in the form of shipping, etc., to evacuate their nationals at the appropriate time.

2. The Chiefs of Staff did not feel it was proper for them to reveal the details of the military evacuation plan, but of course recognise the reasons which have led the Americans to enquire about it. They feel that the question of the protection of American nationals and of any other foreign nationals might properly be determined by the authorities in Palestine, and they made the suggestion that perhaps the correct procedure might be for the American Consul General to raise it direct with the Palestine High Commissioner who could then consult the G. O. C. Palestine.

3. The Chiefs of Staff have, therefore, instructed me to enquire whether this matter should be considered by the Official Committee on Palestine; or if you think that this is inappropriate, perhaps you would raise it with the Department or authorities concerned.

Yours sincerely,
(Sgd.) D. G. STAPLETON.

S. E. V. Inke, Esq.

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1048

PALESTINE

E. 2636

25 FEB 1948

Registry
Number
FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

75572/157/48

F.M. Martin

P.O.

Board

23 Feb

25 -

Protection of U.S. Nationals in Palestine

Copy of letter from F.M. Martin, to F.E.V. Luke
75572/157/48 of 23 Feb. It is now agreed to
inform U.S. Board on Immigration in confidence the
outline plan of the military withdrawal (except
to H/P) and that Admiral Kennelly in London
should also be told to allow cooperation with
U.S. Board on Immigration of U.S. Nationals.

Last Paper.

2571

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action
completed.)

F.L.M. 5/3

(Index.)

24/6/48

Next Paper.

2701

(Minutes.)

N.A. Dyer
S.V. C.R. 3/3

D. Balfour 2/2

H.B. 26/2

J.A.P.P. F.E.V. Luke 2/3
- F.M. Martin 6/1

D. Balfour 4/3

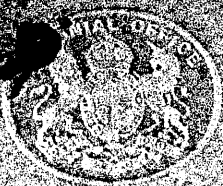
I have informed Mr. Martin that in
our view Admiral Kennelly should be given the
information which was given to the U.S.
Commission in New York. It may of course be
necessary for the Palestine Board and the U.S.
Consul General to go into slightly greater detail.

H.B. 5/3

J.A.P.P. P.O. tel to Palestine 1082 20/3

D. Balfour 25/3

H.B. 26/3



65/82

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25 FEB 1948

With the compliments of

Mr. J.M. Martin.

23rd February, 1948.

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SECRET

83

I am sending a copy of this letter to Beeley
and to Hamilton.

(J. M. Martin)

S. E. V. Luke, Esq., CMG.

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84
75872/159/48.

DRAFT CYPRUS TELEGRAM (O.T.P.)

IMPORTANT

NIGHTSMA.

JERUSALEM

No..... SECRET.

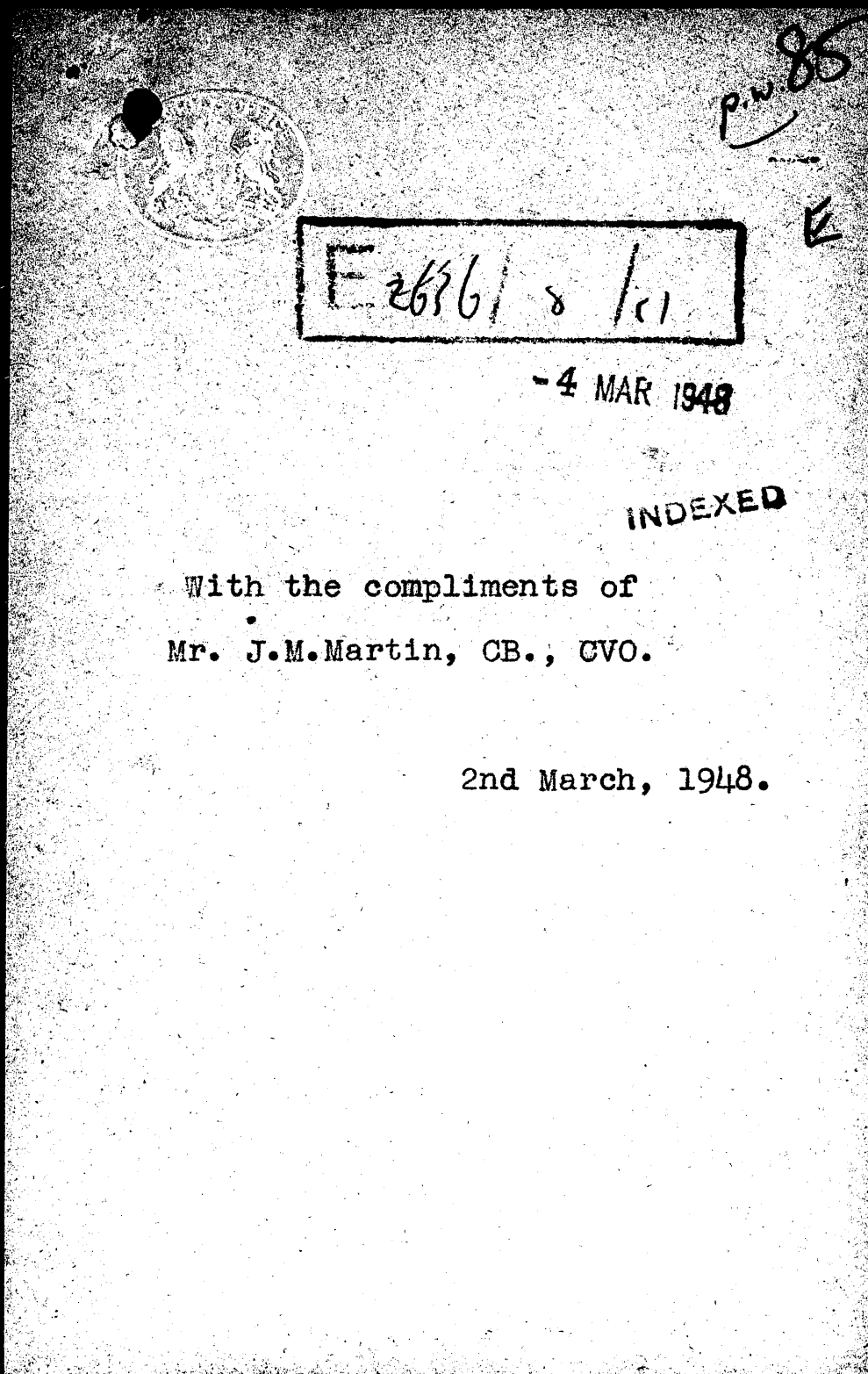
Repeated to -

WASHINGTON

NEW YORK

Admiral Connolly, Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, now in London, has asked to see the details of the British military evacuation scheme for Palestine in order that he may judge what arrangements may be necessary for the protection or evacuation of United States nationals as we withdraw. It has been agreed that Admiral Connolly should be informed in confidence of the outline plan for military withdrawal. He will also be informed that you have been requested to communicate the same information in confidence to the U.S. Consul-General in Jerusalem with a view to agreeing with him arrangements to be made for protection of American nationals. I shall be glad if you will arrange in consultation with G.O.C. for an approach to be made to the U.S. Consul-General on these lines.

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75872/159/48.

Top Secret

2nd March, 1948.

86

Dear Hamilton,

RECEIVED

You sent me on the 24th February a copy of your letter, reference BM/2232(M.O.4), to Luke, in which you agreed that it would be necessary for Admiral Connolly to be given such information as may be necessary for him to co-ordinate with the United States Consul-General in Jerusalem in arrangements which may be considered desirable for the protection of United States nationals in Palestine; but suggested that it would be sufficient if we convey to him not the whole outline plan, but only the particular parts of the plan which may be relevant for this purpose (i.e. the date of our evacuation of Jerusalem etc.).

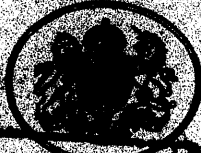
I am not sure from this exactly what particulars you propose should be conveyed to Admiral Connolly, and should be grateful if this could be indicated in greater detail before we telegraph to Palestine on the lines of the draft enclosed with my letter of the 23rd February.

I am sending copies of this letter to Luke and Beeley.

(J.M. Martin)

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E2636 / 8 R1

Cabinet Office,
S.W.1.

4 MAR 1948 and March, 1948

SECRET

Dear Beeley,

You will have seen Martin's letter of 23rd February about the arrangements to be made for the protection of United States nationals in Palestine. I enclose a copy of a letter which I have received from Hamilton. Do you see any objection to the more restricted form of communication which he suggests? I have spoken to Martin, who would have no objections to action on the lines suggested by Hamilton.

Yours sincerely,

L. V. Luke

H. Beeley, Esq.,
Foreign Office

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THE WAR OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, S.W.1.

24 February, 1948

TOP SECRET

BM/2232(MO4)

Dear Luke,

With reference to Martin's letter to you
No. 75872/2/159/48 dated 23rd February, 1948.

I agree that it will be necessary for
Admiral Connolly to be given such information as may
be necessary for him to co-ordinate with the United
States Consul-General in Jerusalem any arrangements
which may be considered desirable for the protection
of United States Nationals in Palestine. I feel,
however, that this does not merit our communicating
to him the whole outline plan for the military with-
drawal. I suggest that it will be quite sufficient
if we convey to him the particular parts of our plan
which may be relevant to the protection of United
States Nationals (i.e. the date of our evacuation of
Jerusalem, etc.).

I am sending a copy of this letter to Martin at
the Colonial Office.

Yours ever,

(Sgd.) J.R.C. HAMILTON

S.E.V. Luke, Esq.,
Cabinet Office,
S.W.1.

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Exhibit

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Sent 20th March, 1948. 13.45 hrs.

Ref. 1003 Secret.

Admiral Connolly, Commander in Chief U.S. Naval Forces, Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean, now in London, has asked to see the details of the British military evacuation scheme for Palestine in order that he may judge what arrangements may be necessary for the protection or evacuation of United States nationals as we withdraw. It has been agreed that Admiral Connolly should be informed in confidence of the outline plan for military withdrawal. He will also be informed that you have been requested to communicate the same information in confidence to the U.S. Consul-General in New Cairo with a view to agreeing with him arrangements to be made for protection of American nationals. I shall be glad if you will arrange for an approach to be made to the U.S. Consul-General on these lines. Information given to the Consul-General should be minimum essential for that purpose in connection with U.S.C.

Dist 1000 18 5000

- Mr. C. C. O'Connell
- Mr. J. J. O'Connell
- Mr. J. J. O'Connell

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<p>46 1948</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E 2701 /G 26 FEB 1948</p>
<p>E 2701/18/1 31/6 Cabinet Office CO 8 (48) 24th 11/19 Min 4 Dated 18 Feb.</p>	<p>Evacuation from Palestine</p>	
<p>Last Paper E 2541</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>The right course is for the U.S. Consul-General to consult with our authorities in Palestine.</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>The withdrawal plan is Secret and cannot be</p>	
<p>(How disposed of)</p>	<p>Communicated to the U.S. Naval representatives here.</p>	
<p>(Action completed) DF 26/13</p>	<p>(Index) H. 1-8 L. 1-8 H. 1-8 L. 1-8</p>	<p>25-2 Series Feb. 27</p>
<p>Next Paper</p>		<p>We should be interested to see the official Office's decision.</p> <p>On May 20 X to May 25</p> <p>20/2 18 Mar. 3</p>

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<p>46 1948</p>	<p>Palestine EASTERN</p>	<p>E 2701 /G 26 FEB 1948</p>
<p>E 2701/81 31/6 Cabinet Office COS (48) 24th 11/9 Min 4 Dated 18 Feb.</p>	<p><u>Evacuation from Palestine</u></p>	
<p>Last Paper E 2701</p>	<p>(Minutes)</p>	
<p>References</p>	<p>The right course is for the U.S. Consul - Gen. to consult with our authorities in Palestine.</p>	
<p>(Print)</p>	<p>The withdrawal plan is Secret and cannot be</p>	
<p>(How disposed of)</p>	<p>Communicated to our U.S. Naval representatives here.</p>	
<p>(Action completed) 25 Feb 13</p>	<p>(Index) w/pt.</p>	<p>NA. Sept. St. Sept. Lt. 1-8 1-11</p>
<p>Next Paper</p>	<p>we should be interested to see the official Office's decision.</p> <p>On May 20 x to Mr 25</p> <p>25-27 Series Feb. 27</p> <p>28/2</p> <p>AB Mar 3</p>	

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4. PALESTINE - EVACUATION

'X'

SIR JOHN CUNNINGHAM reported that Admiral Conolly had twice sent his Intelligence Officer to the Admiralty with a request to be allowed to see the British Military Evacuation Plan for Palestine. The apparent purpose of this request was that the Americans feared that in the course of British withdrawal there might remain in those areas which had been evacuated some American nationals who would thus be in great danger of their lives. The American Naval Headquarters in London were, therefore, concerned to find out whether or not it would be prudent for them to make plans either for the evacuation of their nationals or to find out whether the British were planning to give them protection. The Admiralty had felt they were unable to disclose the Military Evacuation Plan but thought this problem should properly be dealt with by the authorities in Palestine.

In discussion, it was agreed that the protection of American nationals during the period of military evacuation was not one on which the Chiefs of Staff could advise. It appeared that the proper course of action might be for the American Consul General in Palestine to raise the subject with the High Commissioner. The Chiefs of Staff would not, therefore, reveal the details of the evacuation plan unless they were told that politically it was desirable to do so. It was further agreed that the problem should be submitted to the Chairman of the Official Committee on Palestine for his consideration or, if not appropriate to the Official Committee, for him to notify the Colonial Office of the enquiry.

THE COMMITTEE: -

[Handwritten signatures and initials]

Instructed the Secretary to advise the Chairman of the Official Committee on Palestine of the enquiry received by the Admiralty at 'X' above, and to suggest to him that the problem might best be considered by the Official Committee on Palestine.

+ Annex I

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END

ANNEX I

Copy of a letter (Ref.C.O.S.277/18/2/8 dated 18th February, 1948) from the Secretary, Chiefs of Staff Committee to the Chairman of the Official Committee on Palestine.

The First Sea Lord reported to the Chiefs of Staff this morning that Admiral Connelly, the American Naval Commander-in-Chief, Western Europe and Eastern Mediterranean, had sent his Intelligence Officer to the Admiralty to ask if he might be permitted to see the details of the British military evacuation scheme for Palestine. The apparent purpose of this enquiry was to find out the plan of withdrawal so that the Americans might help by withdrawing American nationals would be in areas covered by the plan. The Americans are aware that their nationals will probably be in the danger of their lives if left without any protection, and will wish to know either what plans we have for their immediate protection to American nationals or whether some American assistance should be given, in the form of shipping, etc., to cover to their nationals at the appropriate time.

2. The Chiefs of Staff did not feel it wise to allow him to reveal the details of the military evacuation plan, but of course recognise the concern which must be felt by the Americans about it. They felt that the question of the protection of American nationals and of the evacuation of the Jews should properly be determined by the Committee on Palestine, and suggested the suggestion that perhaps the subject of evacuation should be for the American Consul General to discuss with the British High Commissioner for Palestine, and the British High Commissioner for Palestine.

3. The Chiefs of Staff did not, therefore, intend to enquire whether this matter should be considered by the Official Committee on Palestine; nor did they think that this was a priority, perhaps you could discuss it with the High Commissioner for Palestine.

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